‘CNMI is only marketable destination in Korea right now’ PAGE 2
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Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios testifies before the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee yesterday at the House of Representatives chamber.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

‘Unusual’ and ‘excessive’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Palacios testifies about Torres’ first-class travels, water and power bills, reimbursements

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appeared before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee yesterday and testified that he had raised a concern with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres about the governor’s first-class travels using government funds. He also described as “unusual” and “excessive” the governor’s monthly water and power bills that were being paid using taxpayer funds, and found “amazing” Torres’ reimbursement of personally purchased items.

See UNUSUAL on Page 4

Cultural Heritage Month now a signature MVA event

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board has unanimously voted to adopt Cultural Heritage Month as one of its annual signature events, in coordination with the Carolinian Affairs Office and the Indigenous Affairs Office, to pro-

See MVA on Page 4

3rd COVID-19 shots only for immunocompromised

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CHCC still awaiting word from CDC on booster shots

A third shot of the COVID-19 vaccine is now available in the CNMI but only for those who are immunocompromised—those with weakened immune systems. Still, those who fall in this

See COVID-19 on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:41pm, Sept. 15, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **80.4%**

Days since last community transmission: **175**

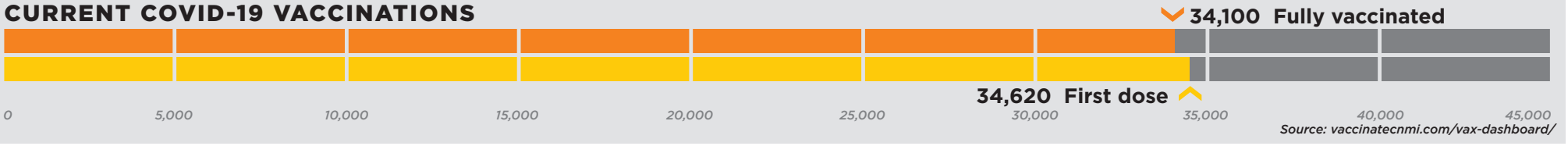
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,804
Fully Vaccinated:	28,937
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,816
Fully Vaccinated:	4,380
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	783

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	12,553	219	12,772
Recovered	10,563	25	10,588
Active	1,795	219	2,014
Deaths	168	2	170

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	256	0	256
Traced via Travel Screening	219	0	219
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Enjoy a clear mind and a good stretch doing yoga and reward yourself with a glass of wine after.

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NATION
California Gov. Gavin Newsom emphatically defeats a recall aimed at kicking him out of office.

PAGE 12

ENVIRONMENT
Two activities emphasize the role the youth plays in keeping the islands clean.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

'CNMI is the only marketable destination in South Korea'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitor's Authority attributes the recent spike in bookings from South Korea to Saipan to the CNMI being the only endorsed travel destination in that country right now.

According to Ivan Quichocho, MVA board member and TRIP South Korea chair, the CNMI is currently the only government marketable destination in South Korea and, because of this advantage, the CNMI has gained so much exposure, resulting in the influx of bookings for the following months.

"As a result of this Travel Bubble, CNMI is the only marketable, South Korean government-endorsed, destination for [South Korean] citizens. We are on every landing page of major travel wholesale, the tour agents, we're on every channel on outbound vacations. We continue to be covered by the various media outlets in South Korea. The [TRIP] program created this buzz that we can't even put a dollar figure on. We're the only destination they can go to. That's invaluable. You can't buy advertisement or market influence like that," he said.

Quichocho said this exposure got started on the foundation of the CNMI being one of the safest places in the world to travel right now. "It started with the foundation of being safe. Hats off to the administration's COVID-19 Task Force, [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], and all the front-liners. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for that hard work," he said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune,* MVA bookings to the CNMI have surpassed the 600 mark just a week into September. As of last Thursday, MVA travel agent partners in South Korea have already confirmed about 650 bookings for September alone.

Meanwhile, for the month of October, 483 bookings have been confirmed, according to Quichocho.

"Currently, as of Sept. 8, October is sitting at 483 bookings. The projection is 853 or 850, so given that we're only at Sept. 8, and the daily bookings are at a pace of a minimum of 100 bookings per day, I anticipate that that October number that we projected will be achieved, if not exceeded," he said.

Quichocho added that bookings from South Korea to the CNMI have been at a consistent pace with a minimum of 100 bookings daily. "Just to give you an idea on the pace of bookings, starting Aug. 31 for September through the end of November, which is the period we're selling, we picked up 113 bookings on the first day alone. On Sept. 1, we picked up 48 bookings, the second 75 bookings, the third 109 bookings, the sixth 119, and Sept. 7, we issued 325 bookings in one day. For Sept. 8, there was 107 bookings. So the pace seems to be pretty consistent," he said.

With the influx of tourists in the coming months, MVA is confident that roughly 384 tourism industry workers will be back to work in time for the holidays.

Court sets $15K bail for men accused of robbing 2 women

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $15,000 cash bail on each of the two men who allegedly robbed two women in central Garapan last week.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed last Monday a $15,000 cash bail each on Vincent DLG Pua, 29, and Brandon Lizama Benavente 37, before remanding them to the custody of the Department of Corrections. They were ordered to return to court on Sept. 22 at 10am for a preliminary hearing and on Sept. 27 for their arraignment.

The two, who are being charged with robbery, allegedly robbed two women in central Garapan on Sept. 8, 2021, according to Office of the Attorney General's Steve Kessel.

Pua's counsel, assistant public defender Emily Thompson, asked the court to allow her client to post 10% of the bail amount but the court did not rule on the matter last Monday.

According to court documents and police interview with one of the two victims through a Chinese interpreter last week, the two victims had been playing at Club 88 when one of them received a call from a friend at around 9:19pm asking to meet them at a karaoke bar. One of the victims cashed out her winnings of $60 before she and her companion left the establishment.

One of the victims said that, as they were walking toward the karaoke bar, a black sedan that was heading south stopped beside them and a man whose face was covered came out, grabbed her from behind, and demanded that she give him her wallet. She said the man grabbed her wallet from under her arm before running back into the black sedan and speeding away.

In a statement to the police, Benavente said that, prior to the incident, he saw his friend, Pua, at Club 88 and, when he finished playing, he got up and exited though the back door with Pua following behind him.

Benavente told police that while outside, they saw two Chinese females exit Club 88, one of whom was holding a purse and the other a wallet.

The two defendants decided to rob the women, but Benavente said he changed his mind and told Pua to "just forget about it." Pua allegedly told Benavente that they had to do it.

Benavente admitted that he jumped out of the car, grabbed the lady's wallet, and jumped back into the vehicle. He also said Pua threw the victim's cell phone by the parking lot next to Club 88's back exit door because it began ringing.

Benavente said they drove to Pua's house where they counted the money before Benavente asked to be dropped at Dollar Poker where they parted ways.

In Pua's statement to the police, he said prior to the incident, he arrived at Club 88 and saw Benavente who asked him to follow him to his car.

Pua said when he got into the front passenger seat, Benavente started driving toward Orchid Poker before parking the car.

Pua said Benavente then jumped up from his seat and threatened Pua to get into the driver's seat and start driving.

Pua told police he had no choice but to drive.

Pua said he was driving northbound on Puti Tainobiu Ave. when Benavente jumped out of the car and grabbed something from a woman and jumped back into the car.

CPA receives $2.2 million in ARPA funds

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has been allocated $2,200,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds through the CNMI central government, strictly for lifting austerity measures, restoring employee hours, and bringing CPA to full operational capacity.

In February 2020, CPA implemented austerity measures to ensure that air services could continue to be provided to the public, that CPA and the remaining airlines could continue to remain solvent, and for the continued safe operation of CPA airports despite the precipitous drop in the number of arriving tourists due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures included the reduction of employees' work hours in order to lower CPA's operational costs.

The $2.2 million allocated to CPA through the central government is required to be used specifically for the restoration of employees' work hours from August 2021 through fiscal year 2023 and to bring CPA to full operational capacity.

Tenorio

"CPA management and its board of directors are deeply appreciative of the generosity of Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and the current administration in allocating ARPA funds to restore CPA employees' work hours," stated CPA executive director Chris Tenorio. "This funding will enable CPA to be more readily able to maintain, develop, operate, and manage the ports. By enhancing CPA's ability to accomplish its mission, the CNMI government's ability to restore the economy and the tourism and travel industries is strengthened."

The funding allocation also coincides with an expected increase in international flights. "With the recent Travel Bubble arrangement signed between the CNMI government and the Republic of Korea, CPA expects an increase in international flights into the CNMI. Bringing CPA to full operational capacity will increase airport offices' operational hours and will provide staff additional time to prepare for new international flights."

On Aug. 17, 2021, CPA received the $2.2 million in ARPA funding. On Aug. 23, 2021, CPA returned to full operational capacity. ***(PR)***

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2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT — SALE PRICE $14,995 — • 55,153 MILES • STK:16R269 • KBB: $14,450
2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE — SALE PRICE $19,995 — • 44,202 MILES • STK: 15P325 • KBB: $20,295
2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT — SALE PRICE $22,995 — • 18,617 MILES • STK: 15HS981 • KBB: $23,603
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER — SALE PRICE $16,995 — • 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068A • KBB: $16,830
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT — SALE PRICE $18,995 — • 12,150 MILES • STK: 18HS906 • KBB: $19,304
2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT — SOLD — SALE PRICE $22,995 — • 14,064 MILES • STK: 18P335 • KBB: $23,338
2018 KIA OPTIMA LX — SALE PRICE $18,995 — • 10,367 MILES • STK:18HS925C • KBB: $19,930
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2019 HONDA CR-V LX — SALE PRICE $25,995 — • 24,306 MILES • STK: 21D019B • KBB: $26,748
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 — SALE PRICE $18,995 — • 10,324 MILES • STK:18HS904 • KBB: $19,904
2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL — SALE PRICE $19,995 — • 20,026 MILES • STK:9H040D • KBB: $21,411
2020 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL — SALE PRICE $24,995 — • 17,834 MILES • STK: 20H072D • KBB: $25,535
2011 TOYOTA 4RUNNER — SALE PRICE $18,995 — • 77,762 MILES • STK:11P314 • KBB: $21,336
2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT — SOLD — SALE PRICE $21,995 — • 4,180 MILES • STK: 20P307 • KBB: $21,326
2015 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD — SOLD — SALE PRICE $30,995 — • 60,757 MILES • STK:15P327 • KBB: $32,187

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UNUSUAL

From Page 1

In response to some JGO members' questions, Palacios said it would appear that Torres abused his office and improperly used boats that were purchased using federal funds.

When asked point blank, though, if he believes there is sufficient reason and justification to call for the immediate resignation of Torres or move for his impeachment, Palacios demurred, saying that is a legislative prerogative.

Palacios is the highest ranking official thus far to be summoned to appear in front of the committee. At the start of the hearing, JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) stated that Palacios is the first witness in these JGO hearings to appear without a counsel and that she hopes that other witnesses would mirror the lieutenant governor's example.

The JGO is investigating Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

Since the start of the JGO investigation, committee members have already questioned police officers and administrative personnel. Babauta said most witnesses had testified that they do not recall or had asked for simple questions to be translated into the vernacular, and that all of them had brought lawyers who raised issues regarding procedures and language.

Before answering to JGO members' questions, Palacios thanked the JGO for allowing him to say a few words. "Let me be candid with you. I never thought that when I took my oath of office as lieutenant governor that I would find myself in this position, having to respond to a subpoena to appear before this committee," Palacios said.

He said according to the subpoena, the JGO Committee is seeking information from him on expenditures incurred by Torres for travel, including those of the first lady Diann T. Torres.

Palacios said the JGO is also seeking information on the governor's purchases of certain equipment and the use of police officers to serve as security details for the governor and the first lady.

"To be at the center of your investigative proceedings [puts] me in a very awkward position as lieutenant governor. But I am here," he said.

Palacios said that, as a former representative and senator, he acknowledges that the oversight responsibility of the Legislature is an important part of the checks and balance system of the government. "I respect this process by which you have called on my appearance. I will do my best to answer your questions to the best of my ability," he said.

In response to Rep. Vicente Camacho's (D-Saipan) question, Palacios said he is familiar with the Commonwealth Code that restricts the use of government funds for first-class or business travel.

Camacho pointed out that Palacios' signature appears on some of Torres' travel authorization, including trips during which the governor traveled first-class.

Palacios said when he signed the governor's TAs, he was not aware that the government would be paying for Torres' first-class airfare. The lieutenant governor said a lot of times, TAs come to him for concurrence so he does not necessarily look at the numbers. He said he has never seen a TA that says its first-class or business class or an economy class. Palacios said he basically look at the purpose and discern if it is for public purposes or in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

"I rely also on the people at Finance because they regulate how much per diem, how much tickets should be and they calculate. So generally, I would sign off," he said.

Palacios said he has never traveled in business class.

In response to Rep. Christina E. Sablan's (D-Saipan) question, Palacios said that had he known that Torres would have been traveling first class or business class, he would have pointed that concern out to the governor. In fact, Palacios said, he actually he raised that concern to Torres and Finance a couple of times and he was told that "it's okay."

He said it was probably Torres and the Finance staff who told him, "It's okay."

Palacios said he became aware that the governor was traveling first-class several years ago when he was a senator. "Whether he was traveling on public resources on first class, I wasn't aware. I was probably thinking that he was able to upgrade himself. But I just never questioned him about it," Palacios said.

It was early on in their tenure as governor and lieutenant governor that Palacios said he became aware that Torres was traveling first-class at government expense, so he raised the issue with him.

Repeating and rephrasing Palacios' testimony, Babauta said the lieutenant governor testified that when he raised his concern to Torres about the latter's first-class travel, it fell on deaf ears as the governor told him, "It was okay." Palacios said he did raise the issue, but he can't judge whether it fell on deaf ears.

Sablan later showed photos showing Torres attending the Torres-Palacios campaign rally in Oregon in April 2018 and a campaign rally in Guam in June 2018. Palacios said he did not attend the Oregon rally, but was present at the Guam rally. He said the NMI Republican Party paid for his Guam trip.

Sablan stated that the records they have reviewed also show that Torres took over 100 trips between 2015 and 2020, which cost the government at least half a million dollars in airfare, per diem, lodging, ground transportation, and boat transportation.

Sablan said that in many of these trips, Torres spent several weeks or days and that at least 40 of these government-funded trips were in first-class or business class, in violation of Commonwealth law.

Sablan said the governor often traveled with other government officials and personal security details, so the cost to the government for these trips were much greater.

Palacios agreed with Sablan that, based on his honest and professional opinion, the extent of these travels and the costs involved indeed "seems excessive."

Sablan said the records they have reviewed show that Torres requested or approved government-funded travel for his wife on dozens of occasions. She said at least 31 of such trips between 2016 and 2019, including 14 first-class and business class trips, were with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Sablan said the cost for these trips for the couple are staggering as one trip to Washington, D.C. cost more than $22,000 for airfare alone for the governor and his wife.

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) later asked Palacios about his thoughts on Torres claiming reimbursement for what appears to be personal items that were purchased, but never made part of the inventory for the governor's office, among them expensive coolers, hunting gear, battery for a personal vehicle, chainsaw, wheelbarrow, and others. Palacios replied, "Amazing."

Palacios' answer drew laughs from NMI Democratic Party chair Nola Hix and other people from the gallery and some representatives.

Babauta later asked Palacios if, given his experience at the Legislature, he believes that there is enough reason to call for Torres' resignation or his impeachment based on abuse of office and flagrant waste of precious government resources. Palacios said he wishes he could give a short answer to that, but that it's not really his choice right now to say yes or no. He said he will leave that to the JGO members to discern what has to be done.

"Certainly you guys have many different options and alternatives and I will leave that to you all elected leaders of this body," Palacios said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Friday, September 17, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  - September 15, 2021 (TMSB Special Meeting)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Review & Approval of Fall 2021 Applicants

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

MVA

From Page 1

mote cultural tourism.

The MVA board members unanimously voted last week to both adopt Cultural Heritage Month as one of its staple events and to appropriate $20,000 to fund the festivity.

MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo said it's important for the MVA to promote the CNMI's culture through festivals like this because it's what sets the islands apart as a destination.

"Tourists will come to Saipan for the beaches, but they won't stay at the beach. They come to seek culture, to see the people, the food. I think that MVA needs to start working harder at promoting that because that's really what makes us unique as an island. You can go to other islands and other countries and find beaches and blue skies, but you can't go anywhere else to see how resilient Chamorros are, or the traditions and culture the Refaluwasch people have protected throughout the years. You can only come here to see and feel that," she said.

Alepuyo said the CAO and the IAO will continue to be the driving force behind such an important festival, but MVA will provide the support and resources needed to successfully carry out the event. "I think that the IAO and the CAO should be the one to dictate what the events are because they're the experts in that area and then MVA should come in and provide all the logistics and support," Alepuyo said.

MVA board member Ivan Quichocho echoed the sentiment, stating that the CNMI needs to focus and improve on cultural tourism.

"We need to have cultural tourism and make that a subsect of our calendars, really focus on these events that really highlight the Refaluwasch and the Chamorro culture," he said.

MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo said the CNMI's indigenous cultures are what set the CNMI apart from other beach destinations and promoting the CNMI cultures provides visitors an opportunity to learn about its traditions

"It's important that we continue to promote our cultures with our partners: the Carolinians Affairs Office, as well as the Indigenous Affairs Office," she said.

Iakopo said that IAO and CAO already have a schedule of events for the entire month of September planned out. "There will be school outreaches to teach students cultural traditions like weaving and such, they will also have sunset concerts and cuisine nights. Most importantly, they will have a grand finale celebration where there will demonstrations of traditions," she said.

COVID-19

From Page 1

category are urged to first consult their doctors if they need the third shot.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña made clear yesterday that the additional COVID-19 vaccine shot that is currently available for moderate to severely immunocompromised individuals is not a booster shot but is a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

When asked about booster shots for the CNMI, Muña said she and CHCC are currently waiting on official word from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the matter.

According to the CDC website, third vaccine doses are sometimes needed when certain individuals— such as the moderate to severely immunocompromised—do not build up enough, or if any, protection against disease after their initial round of vaccination. In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic and COVID-19 vaccines, for individuals in this situation, CDC recommends receiving a third shot of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 28 days after receiving the second dose of an mRNA vaccine.

Booster shots, however, refer to a supplemental dose of a vaccine given to an individual who has built enough protection against a disease after their initial round(s) of vaccination, but then that disease protection wanes over time. On its website, the CDC says the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is working on a plan to roll out booster shots sometime in the fall.

In line with the CDC's recommendations, Muña advised those in the CNMI who are moderate to severely immunocompromised to first check with their healthcare providers to determine if receiving a third shot is appropriate and to consult the CDC's criteria for those who need additional shots. If a third shot is deemed appropriate, these individuals can then complete a consent form and then receive their third shot at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center or any of CHCC's ongoing vaccination sites.

CDC's examples of persons with weakened immune systems include those with HIV/AIDS; cancer and transplant patients who are taking drugs that deliberately suppress their immunity system; and those with genetically inherited diseases that affect the immune system.

The CDC's recommendations for determining if an individual would need a third vaccine shot include those who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood;
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system;
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system;
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection; and
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

On the topic of a future COVID-19 booster shot, who it will be available to, and when booster shots might be rolled out in the CNMI, Muña said she and CHCC are preparing for any official decision and announcement from the CDC, and said that CHCC will make an announcement once booster shots are available in the CNMI.

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'Employers must confirm continued employment of CW-1 workers every 6 months'

Employers of foreign workers in the CNMI under a CW-1 permit must confirm the continued employment of the CW-1 workers every six months, said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

In a post on his Facebook page last Tuesday, Sablan said that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may revoke an employer's approved petition or deny their future petitions if they do not comply with the reporting requirement.

"The NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, or Public Law 115-118, established the semi-annual reporting requirement in part to stop the 'ghost employee' practice that had made it difficult for legacy businesses in the Marianas to obtain CW-1 workers," he said in his post.

CNMI employers with CW-1 workers are required to submit what's called Form I-129CWR (https://www.uscis.gov/i-129cwr), also called the Semiannual Report for CW-1 Employers, to verify the continued employment and payment of each worker under the terms of the approved permit.

Sablan said the interim final rule, implementing the U.S. Workforce Act, gives employers a 60-day window to file Form 1-129CWR that begins 30 days before and closes 30 days after the six-month anniversary of the start date of an approved CW petition.

Employers can verify if USCIS received the Form I-129CWR by entering the receipt number of the approved Form I-129CW petition in Case Status Online:

https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COVID-19 vaccination required for USCIS medical exam

Effective Oct. 1, 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services applicants subject to the immigration medical examination must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the civil surgeon can complete an immigration medical examination and sign Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record.

According to a USCIS news release yesterday, the agency is updating its policy guidance in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Aug. 17, 2021 update to the Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons. That update requires applicants subject to the immigration medical examination to complete the COVID-19 vaccine series (one or two doses, depending on the vaccine) and provide documentation of vaccination to the civil surgeon before completion of the immigration medical examination. This requirement is effective Oct. 1, 2021, and applies prospectively to all Forms I-693 signed by the civil surgeons on or after that date.

"We are working on updating Form I-693 and the form instructions to incorporate this new requirement," the USCIS statement said.

In general, individuals applying to become a lawful permanent resident, and other applicants as deemed necessary, must undergo an immigration medical examination to show they are free from any conditions that would render them inadmissible under the health-related grounds. USCIS designates eligible physicians as civil surgeons to perform this immigration medical examination for applicants within the United States and to document the results of the immigration medical examination on the Form I-693.

USCIS may grant blanket waivers if the COVID-19 vaccine is:

- Not age-appropriate;
- Contraindicated due to a medical condition;
- Not routinely available where the civil surgeon practices; or
- Limited in supply and would cause significant delay for the applicant to receive the vaccination.

Individuals may also apply for individual waivers based on religious beliefs or moral convictions by submitting Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility. ***(PR)***

Senate OKs bill that prohibits DPL from revoking homestead permits

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed Tuesday a bill that seeks to prohibit the Department of Public Lands from revoking a village or agricultural homestead permit after it is already approved and issued after the applicant met all the requirements, including even if the applicant has no interest in the land at the time the permit is approved.

All eight senators present adopted the report of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs that recommends passage of Senate Bill 22-22 in the form of Senate Substitute 1. Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent, but was excused.

The eight senators subsequently voted "yes" to pass the bill. The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives.

The bill, authored by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) proposes to amend the provisions pertaining to village and agricultural homesteads on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It amends the statutory provisions of the village and agricultural homestead to uniformly apply to Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The bill seeks to clarify the permitting process once an applicant has been approved and issued a homestead lot by DPL.

Article 11, Section 5 of the NMI Constitution mandates DPL to designate certain portions of public lands for homestead programs in the CNMI. An applicant with no interest in land at the time of applying may be issued one agricultural and one village homestead lot.

Cruz filed similar legislation in June 2020. The Senate passed the bill in December 2020, but the House did not act on it.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) presides over a session Tuesday, during which the senators approved a bill that seeks to prohibit the Department of Public Lands from revoking a village or agricultural homestead permit after it is approved and issued.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

According to the report of the Committee on Resources, Economic Development Program chaired by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), upon approval, the current village homestead regulations require eligible applicants, or homesteaders, to comply with a three-year permit period upon issuance of the homestead permit.

The committee said the homesteader is required to use and improve the lot within 120 days, build a single family residence within two years, commence to reside in an issued homestead no later than the end of the second year, and continually reside throughout the third year.

However, the committee said major concerns were raised regarding the revocation of lots during the three-year permit period due to the homesteader's acquisition of land through marriage, recipient of a deed by land by a parent or an estate; or purchase of affordable real property after the issuance of a homestead permit.

The committee cited that the NMI Administrative Code provides that to be eligible the applicant must not have an undivided interest in land. The committee said that "interest in land" is determined at the time the application is reviewed and approved. Therefore, the committee said, it is evident that DPL determines whether the applicant has an existing interest in land at the time of approval rather than basing it on interest in land that may occur in the future.

The committee finds that revoking a permit during the three-year permit period because the applicant acquired an interest in land during the three-year permit is contrary to DPL's regulation, is unfair, and is unjustified.

The committee finds it necessary to prohibit DPL from revoking permits after it is approved regardless whether the applicant acquires another piece of land after the time the permit is approved.

The Commonwealth Code mandates the village homestead program for all three senatorial districts. The Code also provides for the Rota Village Homestead Reservation Act and for the Tinian Agricultural and Village Homesteads.

The committee finds it necessary to combine the village homestead provisions for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The committee also finds it necessary to provide for a Saipan agricultural homestead like Rota and Tinian.

The committee, however, finds that it is not necessary to touch the recently passed legislation that provides for the homestead program in the Northern Islands.

The committee agrees with the intent of consolidating only the village and agricultural homestead programs for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

The committee finds that "interest in land" has to be a "possessory interest in land" at the time DPL approved the permit. The committee agrees with DPL's position that homesteaders who have already received the conveyance of the homestead and leased the property are no longer eligible for a new homestead lot in order to provide opportunities for eligible applicants awaiting issuance of a homestead lot.

DPL raised several reservations and objections to the bill. For one, DPL is concerned about the establishment of an agricultural homestead program for Saipan due to the dense population and challenges faced in identifying public lands available to satisfy the pending applicants under the village homestead program.

The committee finds that it is within DPL's authority to determine the reasonable size of an agricultural lot, that DPL does not have to issue one hectare plots if there are inadequate available agricultural plots.

The committee finds that the permit revocations are unfair to those who were approved and complied with all the homestead requirements but were found at a subsequent time that they had acquired land. The committee said it is the intent of the legislation to prohibit such revocation.

A section of the bill provides for retroactive application to undo the revocations made by DPL in order to be fair to those permittees.

Update on Kagman water service interruption

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to update the public on the emergency water service interruption that occurred last Sunday, Sept. 12, for customers in the Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan areas.

As of Tuesday, water services have been restored to the Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan areas. However, customers in the Kagman area are still experiencing low pressure to no water services. See schedule below for the water service hours:

- Kagman 1, Kagman 2 and Kagman 3 (Phase 4) - Scheduled to go offline yesterday at 2:30pm for water operators to remove an existing gate valve on restricting water flow to the affected areas.
- Kagman 3- Online but scheduled to be shut-off yesterday evening at 7pm until today, Sept. 16, at 6am.

CUC water operators are also performing a leak repair near the Ates Drive and Kamachili Avenue intersection in Kagman 2.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area. CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI.

The Saipan Mayor's Office's water tankers are still available at the Kagman Community Center for customers to fill up their gallons. Customers are welcome to retrieve water at this location.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and cooperation during this emergency water service interruption.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Two SIS students named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists

EVANSTON, Illinois—Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corp. announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

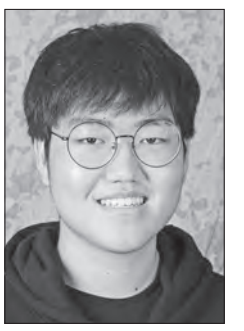
Cevina Hwang and Kevin Park were the two students chosen from Saipan International School. Both Hwang and Park have also been recognized as AP Scholars, earning the title AP Scholar with Distinction. Park has already successfully completed eight AP exams and Hwang six exams. Both are enrolled in a full AP course load this year and will attempt between six and eight additionally exams in May.

Hwang, who was also selected as a Questbridge College Prep Scholar this year, enabling to her to attend a summer program at Yale University, said, "This is my 15th year at SIS since K3, and throughout my life I have developed my judgement and character from SIS' resources. The extensive curriculum has allowed me to perform well in extracurriculars like Speech and Debate, Math Court, and Model United Nations; volunteer through Rotary and at Saipan Cares for Animals; and join volleyball, which I would have never learned otherwise. With zero tutoring nor extra classes and only with the curriculum SIS provides, I have become an AP Scholar with Distinction and earned the AP Capstone Diploma. Now, as a semifinalist, I will work hard to advance further in the National Merit Scholarship Program with what SIS has taught me."

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay. From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

Hwang



Park

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2021. Every finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit $2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 220 corporations and business organizations for finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2022 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title. ***(PR)***

ISLA: A passion project to be told in three films

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club and Northern Marianas College are collaborating on a film trilogy titled *ISLA* that will be written and directed by Theatre Club founder, Northern Marianas College president, and award-winning filmmaker Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD. The films will explore themes of faith, hope, and love against the backdrop of the Marianas. Auditions for the first film in the trilogy will take place this Saturday at the college.

Deleon Guerrero has been waiting a long time to take on this project. "While I've been telling stories on stage and in film for over 30 years now, it has taken me this long to finally feel ready to tackle these particular stories."

Deleon Guerrero

Deleon Guerrero earned an advanced certificate in digital filmmaking from New York University and has produced over 50 stage shows and films, including nine stories adapted from *We Drank Our Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. Films in that series have been screened at film festivals around the world and have won multiple awards, including Best of Festival from Guam International Film Festival and a Golden Latte Stone Award at the Marianas International Film Festival.

As he moves forward with *ISLA*, Deleon Guerrero said, "I am really excited to now work with both Mount Carmel and the college to bring these next films to life. I especially invite the entire community to audition for the films because we need everyone's help to tell these stories about our islands."

The first audition for *ISLA* will be held this Saturday, Sept. 18, from 1pm to 4pm at NMC in Room J-15. Complete the form ahead of the audition at http://tinyurl.com/islamovie. Also, remember to follow all COVID-19 mitigation protocols when on campus, including wearing a mask, completing temperature checks at designated stations, and maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet from others. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors** hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its **special board meeting** on **Monday, September 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CHCC Administrative Office, Conference Room 3. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
  D. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments**
III. Discussion
  A. CHCC Current Billing and Arrears
  B. CHCC's Request for Six (6) Month Extension of Payment Agreement for CHCC's Utility Services (9/11/20) and CUC Response
IV. Executive Session ***
V. Announcements
VI. Adjournment

_____/s/_____
WESTON THOMAS DELEON GUERRERO,
Acting Chairman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors' Personnel Committee** hereby informs the general public that the **Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 10:00 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

The Agenda is as follows:

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Roll Call
  B. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Discussion of T.A.A. 20-0001-CA Order and Recommendation

IV. Discussion and Review of 20-0001G Grievance Action

V. Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

_____/s/_____
Jovita SN. Paulino, Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Shining a new light on solar energy

Climate change has become "everybody's crisis," President Joe Biden declared as he inspected Hurricane Ida damage last week. And in fact, according to a Washington Post analysis, just this summer nearly 1 out of 3 Americans experienced a weather disaster.

This alarming pattern will likely worsen unless aggressive climate change mitigation is soon implemented. Which is why the Biden administration is committed to decarbonizing the electrical grid, among other measures.

Doing so will require thinking big. Or really big, in the case of a U.S. Department of Energy "Solar Futures Study" released last week. The DOE contends it's possible to increase the role of solar power in producing electricity from the nearly 4% today to 44% by 2050.

Nearly half the nation's electricity from the sun? Sounds great, of course, even if what's possible isn't necessarily what's plausible.

Solar power is already hitting record installation rates, with 2020 seeing an increase of 15 gigawatts for a total of 76 produced in the U.S., according to the DOE report. But getting to the ambitious 44% goal would require doubling that installation rate annually between now and 2025 and then doubling it again annually from 2025-2030.

That would require huge investments from both the public and private sectors—up to $562 billion, according to the analysis. But the return in carbon emissions and improved health quality would result in savings of $1.1 trillion to $1.7 trillion, the report states.

Significant technological innovations also would be needed, particularly in storage capacity and transmission lines. That's especially critical because the percentage of vehicles and manufacturing processes switching to electricity is set to increase significantly as well, Daniel Cohan, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Rice University, told an editorial writer.

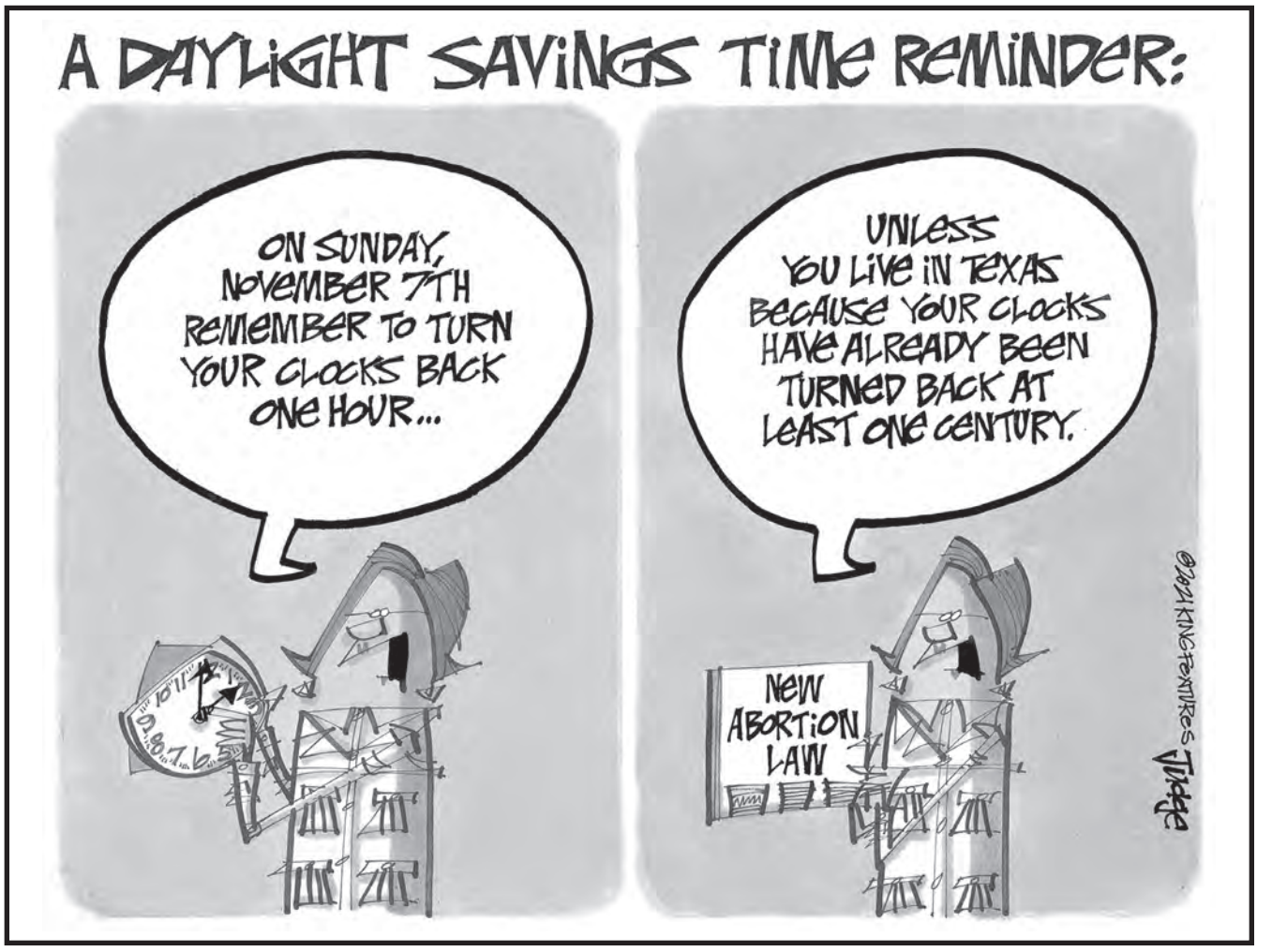
Cohan is an advocate of solar energy, but said the goal of decarbonizing the grid is best approached by not targeting a specific percentage from a specific source, especially as energy technology continues to evolve.

"We shouldn't be aiming for a preordained percent of any one fuel, our aim should be to make electricity as clean, affordable and reliable as possible, and as soon as possible," Cohan said. "We know that solar and wind are going to play leading roles in that. But we don't know exactly what those percentages would be." Most studies in the sector, Cohan added, "show that a more affordable path to get to clean electricity would have more blended supply."

To its credit, the Biden administration hasn't taken the DOE study as a policy blueprint, but as an example of what's possible—at a time when it's impossible to ignore the existential threat any longer.

The study is "yet another affirmation that it is possible to get to net-zero electricity by 2050," Cohan said. "We need to be planning for it and building pretty soon. In terms of legislation, I think that should be the goal: Our aim is to have clean electricity, because clean electricity is the most essential step

See SHINING on Next Page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COVID is on its way to becoming just another virus

By DAVID FICKLING
Bloomberg Opinion

David Fickling is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering commodities, as well as industrial and consumer companies. He has been a reporter for* Bloomberg News, Dow Jones, *the* Wall Street Journal, *the* Financial Times *and the* Guardian.)

In the days before COVID-19, I'd often get frustrated by the response that doctors would give when I turned up at their clinics with some infection or other: "It's just a virus," they'd say.

As someone who's long been fascinated by the detective work that goes into tracing the origins and history of infections, the answer always seemed too perfunctory. Which virus was it? Where and when did this strain emerge? How many other people were getting infected with this same variant this year?

Those questions aren't of much relevance to most general practitioners, because the majority of viruses simply burn themselves out as part of the teeming backdrop of endemic infections that roll around the globe each year. At some point, with rising immunity from vaccinations, infections and booster shots, COVID-19 will join that club.

Early last year, the world urgently needed to raise its sense of alarm around the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and see it as the imminent threat it was rather than a more routine infection on a par with influenza. Right now, though, the vaccinated parts of the planet need to mentally send themselves in the opposite direction. It's time to remind ourselves that, for those who've been inoculated, COVID-19-19 is no longer a horseman of the apocalypse but instead is gradually becoming "just a virus."

That's broadly the place that some of the countries that have advanced furthest in their vaccination programs are reaching. In Singapore, where 81% are fully immunized, the Ministry of Health has started prioritizing data on hospitalizations rather than infections, since the vast majority of cases are now relatively benign. Israel is riding out a surge in new cases without returning to lockdowns for the vaccinated, since the vast majority of infections no longer result in serious illness.

The calls from some quarters to stop publishing daily case totals may be premature for a disease that's still killing thousands of people a day. At some point, though, when COVID-19 has passed from its current pandemic status to the endemic situation where it fades into the background, we're likely to be as vague on daily or even annual case numbers as we are in the case of influenza.

It's hard to believe that an infection that's killed more than 4.5 million people could be thought of in such a routine way, but viruses through history have flipped between endemic and pandemic status with remarkable frequency.

The "Russian Flu" pandemic that circled the world in the late 1970s appears to have been an unremarkable seasonal flu strain from the 1940s and 1950s, possibly released to the world anew via a laboratory accident. People over the age of 25, who'd been exposed to the variant in their childhood, were largely immune. Yellow fever, which shaped the history of the Americas for four centuries through its devastating effects on expeditionary military forces who lacked immunity, has now largely vanished from urban areas of the western hemisphere, while remaining a devastating infection in sub-Saharan Africa.

A July study in the journal Microbial Biotechnology even presented an argument that a coronavirus strain called HCoV-OC43 might have been responsible for an 1889 outbreak also known as the Russian Flu, arguably the first true modern global pandemic. That particular strain now crops up as one of the main causes of the common cold, a classic example of an endemic infection that doctors safely dismiss.

We're not at that stage yet. Fully vaccinated, I feel relatively sanguine about the likelihood that at some point in the years ahead I, too, will be exposed to COVID-19. Still, fully inoculated friends who recently moved from Sydney to New York and caught the virus within weeks of arrival have suffered a vicious infection that spread to their unvaccinated preteen son. That's reason to keep treating this disease with respect, at least until everyone has had the chance to be vaccinated and we have a clearer sense of how long protection against severe infection persists.

This terrible scourge will always be with us, but in a milder, less troubling form. After the trauma of the past two years, it's hard to believe that we'll ever look upon that prospect with a sense of equanimity—but that's what must ultimately happen. The moment we've beaten COVID-19 won't be when we eradicate it from the human population, but when we've reached a level of vaccinated and natural immunity where we no longer have reason to fear it. That moment will come—and when it does, even this dreadful infection will be just another virus.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

You go, Joe! Thank heavens the president is standing up for science, public health and vaccines

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

How refreshing to see a defiant President Joe Biden invite Republicans to "have at it" over his aggressive new plan to make sure most Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19. Thursday, he announced that private-sector businesses with more than 100 employees must make sure their workers are fully vaccinated or be tested each week before coming to work.

The order, which also applies to healthcare workers, federal contractors and most federal workers, is expected to affect more than 80 million American adults who remain unvaccinated.

It's about time we had a president who stood up unapologetically for science and the public health, and against those selfish, reflexively anti-communitarian conservatives who think that inoculating themselves against a deadly new virus represents a horrendous trampling of their personal freedoms.

Republican governors are already foaming at the mouth to sue Biden for what they see as unconstitutional overreach. They were already worked up over his directive to the education secretary to use the weight of the federal government against governors who have blocked and intimidated local school officials from imposing mask mandates. (The hysteria on display by mask-hating parents at school board meetings across the country has become a social media genre all its own.)

In response to legal threats by Republican governors like Kristi Noem of South Dakota, Biden was blithe: "If those governors won't help us beat the pandemic," he said last week, "I will use my power as president to get them out of the way."

The refusal of otherwise healthy people to vaccinate is, in fact, a trampling of common sense, decency and the very idea that any of us owes a measure of respect to those around us.

No man is an island, as the poet John Donne wrote, and that sentiment has never been more profound now that the world is in the clutches of a deadly pandemic that has already taken more than 4.5 million souls, roughly 658,000 of them in America.

I am so done with the public servants—especially firefighters and police officers who come into contact with the physically frail and vulnerable every day of their working lives—who believe they have a God-given right to refuse vaccines and still keep their jobs.

I'm talking to you, the many San Diego cops who claimed in a recent San Diego Police Officers Association survey that you would rather be fired than be forced to get the jab: Buh-bye!

Good luck finding another job that pays as well or better than policing, and has as good or better benefits. And don't forget—if you end up working security for a company with more than 100 employees, the new Biden rule will still apply to you.

Health officials say that more than 90% of patients hospitalized with COVID are unvaccinated, that unvaccinated Americans are 29 times more likely to be hospitalized and 11 times more likely to die of COVID than those who have been vaccinated.

This is as Darwinian as it gets, but it's a fact: People who become deathly ill with COVID don't just face premature personal extinction, they also put an unnecessary strain on our hospitals, our healthcare workers, our first responders and our undertakers. Not to mention the danger they present to their families, friends and anyone else with whom they come into contact before they are diagnosed.

How many more stories do we have to read about the deathbed conversions of the unvaccinated before this lesson really sinks in?

Over the summer at least four conservative, anti-vax radio talk show hosts—all older white men—died of COVID.

"Conservative radio hosts all across America are losing their lives for the cause," said a story in Vanity Fair.

I cannot think of a less righteous cause than refusing to take a safe and efficacious vaccine because medical experts—and the president— think you should.

It seems to me that the very same folks who spent months misguidedly trashing elected officials like California Gov. Gavin Newsom for closing schools, shutting down businesses and mandating masks are now the ones most loudly condemning the president's vaccine mandate.

Make up your minds, people.

Either you want businesses, schools and restaurants to stay open, or you don't. The power lies with you. The more the virus and its virulent Delta variant rage on, the greater the chance of another shutdown, more sickness and more death.

Through the miracle of science, we can actually help the virus go away, or at least recede, by getting vaccinated. This is why colleges and universities are mandating vaccines. And it's why, as Forbes reported in August, "a host of airlines, retailers, tech companies, banks and health care companies have told employees that vaccinations will no longer be optional to come into the office—or in some cases, like at Ascension Health, even to work remotely."

More than 700 colleges and universities require COVID vaccines, including all of the University of California and Cal State campuses.

As the guardian of a child who attends public middle school in Los Angeles, I could not be happier, nor more grateful, that the L.A. Board of Education has become the first of the country's largest school districts to mandate vaccines for all students 12 and older. Starting in January, kids 12 and up must be vaccinated in order to step foot on campus.

How do people think polio was eradicated? Or smallpox? And why do you think measles has made a comeback?

These scourges are no longer threats, but only because vaccines were developed to prevent them.

We will never return to normal if fear and ignorant ideas about personal liberty do not give way to science and common sense.

How Pakistan won the war in Afghanistan

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg Opinion

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the* Washington Times, *the* New York Sun *and* UPI.

As Washington ponders how the U.S. lost its longest war in Afghanistan, it's worth considering another question: Who won the war?

There is the Taliban, of course, the fanatics who have formed an interim government featuring several wanted terrorists. But an even bigger winner may be the Taliban's primary patron: Pakistan.

Most U.S. allies expressed shock, sadness and anger at the Taliban's victory last month in Kabul. But Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan celebrated the rout of Afghanistan's elected government, saying the Taliban had "broken the shackles of slavery."

For much of the war on terror that began after 9/11, Pakistan played a double game. It occasionally helped track and detain al-Qaida and Taliban leaders. In 2010, Pakistani and U.S. special operations forces arrested Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Karachi. All the while, however, elements of the Pakistani military and intelligence services provided sanctuary, funding and training for the Taliban and its allies in the lethal terrorist group known as the Haqqani network.

For the first 10 years of the Afghanistan war, this was an issue that the U.S. and Pakistan preferred to debate in private. After the Haqqani network orchestrated a truck bombing at a NATO outpost near Kabul and an assault on the U.S. embassy there in September 2011, Admiral Mike Mullen, then the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, broke the silence. "The Haqqani network acts as a veritable arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency," he said.

Mullen's accusation should have surprised no one. A few months earlier, the U.S. had killed Osama bin Laden, who was then living comfortably in Abbottabad, home of the Pakistan's equivalent of West Point. There is a reason Mullen didn't give his Pakistani counterparts advance notice of that raid.

Between 2001 and 2011, the U.S. provided Pakistan with more than $20 billion in military assistance. That subsidy began to decrease after 2011. In 2018, with a few narrow national-security exceptions, the U.S. suspended security assistance.

The restrictions and eventual suspension of military aid were really the only ways the U.S. ever tried to punish its ostensible client. By his second term, President Barack Obama was looking for a way to get out of Afghanistan. And while there was a modest surge of forces in President Donald Trump's first year in office, his administration ended up negotiating the surrender that President Joe Biden just completed.

So it's no wonder that Pakistan is celebrating the Taliban's victory. A faction of its deep state had been working to return the Taliban to power since 2001.

So far, the Biden administration has kept silent about Pakistan's betrayal. Remarkably, a remnant of Afghan patriots has not. On Tuesday, protesters in Kabul demanded that Pakistan not intervene in their sovereign affairs.

It would be nice if there were some official show of U.S. support for these courageous protesters. But it's unlikely. As Biden has said many times in the last several months, the post-withdrawal plan is for the U.S. to retain an "over the horizon" capability to target terrorists in Afghanistan. That means the U.S. will need Pakistan's approval for flights over its airspace.

America's "forever war" in Afghanistan may be over. But just across the border, in Pakistan, America's former client still holds leverage over the superpower it helped defeat.

SHINING

From Page 8

towards net zero for the entire economy."

What's most important about the study is what it represents: an administration committed to finding solutions.

Reflecting upon the significant role energy production plays in greenhouse gas emissions, Jessica Hellmann, director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, told an editorial writer in an email exchange that, "To achieve our Paris [climate accord] commitments and avoid catastrophic levels of climate change we need to reduce emissions to zero by 2050." Accordingly, Hellmann added, "we have to transform our energy sources to achieve carbon-neutrality goals.

"It might be ambitious—and even difficult—to do that, but it's necessary."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ignore misinformation and baseless 'facts'

We need to turn a deaf ear to the misinformation and baseless "facts" espoused by far right gangs that have confused and angered many Americans. The spineless U.S. Supreme Court has backed away from overruling the Texas horrendous unconstitutional abortion law. Women have a constitutional right to choose and science/medical experts have proven getting vaccinated and wearing a mask will save your life, family members, and citizens around the world. While extreme right gangs demand to choose to not wear masks and not get vaccinated, it will increase their chances of becoming infected with COVID-19 thereby increasing the possibility of transmitting the disease to people who are seemingly protected. Stop politicizing these issues!

The president has a huge job of getting SCOTUS and the spineless lawmakers in Congress to do the right things that will ultimately put us all on the same page.

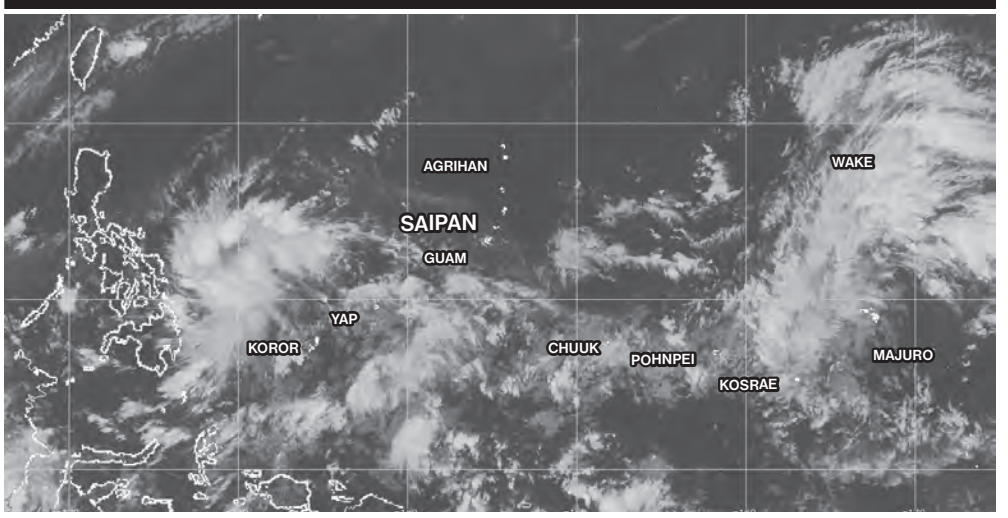
Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming north around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:51 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. Increased clouds and shower activity with a few thunderstorms is seen about 300 miles to the east near 150E, associated with a surface trough and an upper-level low. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, composed of east-northeast swell, east-southeast swell, and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:18 AM	2:51 PM
Friday	-	2:20 AM	3:45 PM
Saturday	-	3:20 AM	4:34 PM
Sunday	-	4:17 AM	5:18 PM
Monday	-	5:12 AM	5:58 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
London	Windy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 37°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Mostly Sunny	81° / 75°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Paris	Showers	75° / 54°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 75°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	90° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:02 AM	High Tide	1.73
9:53 AM	Low Tide	-0.09
5:33 PM	High Tide	1.85
10:56 PM	Low Tide	1.28

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Yoga class and a glass at ARC

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Enjoy a clear mind and a good stretch doing yoga and reward yourself with a glass of wine after. That is the game plan tomorrow at Aqua Resort Club's "A Class and a Glass" with yoga instructor Kerri Bauer that starts at 5:30pm for only $15.

"Tomorrow, we are having a wine and yoga class beach and poolside at ARC. ARC really has the best setting with a picture-perfect backdrop, hard floor for support, roof covering for weather, and drinks and food available after at Michelle's Bar with 50% off on menu specials and drinks," Bauer said.

The class will be a one-hour yoga flow class. It's going to be a more gentle and slow flow that will enable participants to de-stress after a long week and get ready to unwind with friends after. "… This type of event is for everyone, all levels. This is all about adding a little flavor to the classes, having fun, connecting socially, moving our bodies, and finding our breath," Bauer said.

For Bauer, who is a certified yoga instructor for three years now, connecting with people to be active physically and connecting socially is one of the things she is passionate about.

"I've been teaching a variety of group fitness classes since 2006. …I teach Vinyasa Flow in my yoga classes, which is a series of poses strung together and connected by breath. There are a variety of poses so no two classes are ever the same. We generally work toward a 'peak pose,' which is the most challenging pose of the class," she said.

"I love how amazing I feel inside and out after yoga. I love how your body moves in a variety of ways with twists and stretching, along with balancing, holding, and strengthening. I love how it is for everybody, no one is judgmental and you can come as you are," she added.

Before the summer break, Bauer has been conducting regular yoga classes at Aqua Resort Club and one of the her students, Sadie LaPonsie, described Bauer as a skilled and energetic teacher whose classes are welcoming to students of all levels. "I attend the Monday morning classes at Aqua when I can. The setting is beautiful, and it's a perfect way to focus my mind and body at the beginning of the week."

Bauer said that yoga is also a good supplemental sport to other sports or activities. "Come try yoga and give those repetitive muscle movements a break. …I love seeing the connection and a yoga family that has grown. I love seeing my students transform. Yoga can be so gentle and subtle, yet confident and dramatic."

"We don't have a future date for Wine and Yoga yet but we hope with a nice turnout that we can continue to offer these classes in the future. For the month of October, I'll be offering a virtual morning movement and meditation class for free and people can make a donation if they like and also my Monday morning 8:30am flow class at ARC," she added.

For more information, you can call ARC at (670) 322-1234 or contact Bauer on her Facebook page: :'Yoga In Saipan" and Instagram:'yogainsaipan' or you can message her on WhatsApp: (670)484-3848.

Join yoga instructor Kerri Bauer in a "Class and a Glass" session tomorrow at Aqua Resort Club in San Roque.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New breakfast menu at Majesty Chinese Restaurant

Majesty Chinese Restaurant in Garapan is now serving breakfast daily from 7am to 10:30am. The new breakfast menu features Filipino, local, Chinese, and American-style breakfast combos, omelets, salads, side orders such as pancakes and French toast, bottomless coffee and teas, and more.

For what it calls its "Breakfast Classics," Majesty offers four choices, all for $9.50 each: a "Filipino Deluxe" that features beef tapa, *tocino*, and *longganisa* with eggs and a choice of steamed rice or toast; a "Local Deluxe" that features Spam, Chamorro sausage, eggs, and rice or toast; a "Chinese Deluxe" that features congee with shredded pork and century egg and a dim sum platter; and an "American Deluxe" that features bacon, ham, sausage links, and eggs with toast.

Breakfast side orders, which range in price from $2.50 to $7.50, include French toast, pancakes, white or wheat toast, any style eggs, fried rice or garlic rice, a breakfast burrito, hash browns, and oatmeal. For bottomless drinks, Majesty offers coffee for $2.50, English tea for $2.50, Chinese tea for $2, and iced lemon tea for $3.

The restaurant makes and bakes its own bread in-house.

Majesty Chinese Restaurant is in Garapan, near the Ocean View Hotel and the Bank of Guam. It can be called at 233-2088. ***(Joshua Santos)***

MVA welcomes new, returning members for FY 2022

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes new and returning members for the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2021.

Businesses, organizations, and individuals are welcome to join the state tourism agency for $100 a year. Accounts can be registered and paid on MVA's English website at www.mymarianas.com.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes all parties interested in working to rebuild and strengthen the Marianas tourism economy," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Now more than ever, we see the integral relationship between community and tourism. Our community has played an important role in keeping the Marianas safe during the worldwide COVID-19 crisis, and because of that, we can now begin to put more people back to work and generate necessary government revenue as we slowly rebuild tourism. Tourism is everybody's business, and we look forward to building on that in fiscal year 2022."

The MVA currently has 93 members. Benefits of membership include business listing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Korean, Japanese, Chinese (traditional and simplified), and English; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in the Marianas and internationally; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and familiarization tours; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA board of directors; the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA; and the opportunity to serve on ad hoc committees.

For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact Community Projects coordinator Jack Aranda at the MVA Membership Division at 664-3210 or at jaranda@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-SOC-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"ROTA OFFICE LEASE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-CHCC/IT-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"SWITCHES FOR CHCC INTERFACILITY NETWORK UPGRADE"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) will hold their FY 2021 Joint General Membership Meeting on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at theCaladium Hall - Laolao Bay Golf & Resort from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of September 18, 2021
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes:
a. SRC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021
b. SILC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2021
V. Reports
a. SRC Chairperson
b. SRC Sub-Committee Chairpersons
c. SILC Chairperson
d. CLI Executive Director
e. OVR Director
VI. Old Business
a. NDEAM
b. SRC and SILC Acceptance Campaign Updates
c. SILC Info Session Date
d. Revision of SILC Voting and Non-Voting Members
e. FY 2021 SRC and OVR Annual Report with the inclusion of SILC
f. SRC Workshop – New and Current Members' Training and Orientation
VII. New Business
a. Potential Disability Employment Legislation
b. SRC/SILC/OVR Family Fun Day Gathering
VIII. Action Items
A. Review and Approval of SRC FY 2022 Resource Plan
B. Review and Approval of SILC FY 2022 Resource Plan
C. SRC Election of Officers
IX. Miscellaneous/Announcements
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Tiava To'omata at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than 12:00 pm on Friday, September 17, 2021.

/s/ **PRESTON O. BASA,**
SRC CHAIRPERSON

/s/ **CONSOLACION ATALIG,**
SILC Vice Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Nation

Newsom defeats recall

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday emphatically defeated a recall aimed at kicking him out of office early, a contest the Democrat framed as part of a national battle for his party's values in the face of the coronavirus pandemic and continued threats from "Trumpism."

Newsom

Newsom bolted to a quick victory boosted by healthy turnout in the overwhelmingly Democratic state. He cast it as a win for science, women's rights and other liberal issues, and it ensures the nation's most populous state will remain in Democratic control as a laboratory for progressive policies.

"'No' is not the only thing that was expressed tonight," Newsom said. "I want to focus on what we said 'yes' to as a state: We said yes to science, we said yes to vaccines, we said yes to ending this pandemic."

With about 60% of ballots counted, "no" on the question of whether to recall Newsom was ahead by a 2-to-1 margin. That lead was built on votes cast by mail and in advance of Tuesday's in-person balloting, with a strong showing by Democrats. While likely to shrink somewhat in the days ahead as votes cast at polling places are counted, Newsom's lead couldn't be overcome.

Republican talk radio host Larry Elder almost certainly would have replaced Newsom had the recall succeeded, an outcome that would have brought a polar opposite political worldview to Sacramento.

The recall turned on Newsom's approach to the pandemic, including mask and vaccine mandates, and Democrats cheered the outcome as evidence voters approve of their approach. The race also was a test of whether opposition to former President Donald Trump and his right-wing politics remains a motivating force for Democrats and independents, as the party looks ahead to midterm elections next year.

Republicans had hoped for proof that frustrations over months of pandemic precautions would drive voters away from Democrats. The GOP won back four U.S. House seats last year, success that Republican leaders had hoped indicated revived signs of life in a state controlled by Democrats for more than a decade.

But a recall election is an imperfect barometer—particularly of national trends. Democrats outnumber Republicans nearly 2-to-1 in California, so the results may not translate to governors in toss-up states or reflect how voters will judge members of Congress next year.

Trump, who had largely stayed out of the contest, made unsubstantiated claims that the election was rigged in the closing days, claims echoed by Elder's campaign. Elder did not mention fraud as he addressed his supporters after the results were in.

"Let's be gracious in defeat. We may have lost the battle, but we are going to win the war," he said, later adding that the recall has forced Democrats to focus on issues such as homelessness and California's high cost of living.

Newsom for months had likened the recall to efforts by Trump and his supporters to overturn the presidential election and a push in Republican-led states to restrict voting access.

"Democracy is not a football, you don't throw it around. It's more like—I don't know—an antique vase," Newsom said after his win. "You can drop it, smash it into a million different pieces—and that's what we're capable of doing if we don't stand up to meet the moment and push back."

He became the second governor in U.S. history to defeat a recall, cementing him as a prominent figure in national Democratic politics and preserving his prospects for a future run. Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker survived a recall in 2012.

ACROSS THE NATION

Census: Relief programs staved off hardship in COVID crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Massive government relief passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic moved millions of Americans out of poverty last year, even as the official poverty rate increased slightly, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. The official poverty measure rose 1 percentage point in 2020, with 11.4% of Americans living in poverty, or more than 37 million people. It was the first increase in poverty after five consecutive annual declines. But the Census Bureau's supplemental measure of poverty, which takes into account government benefit programs and stimulus payments, showed that the share of people in poverty dropped significantly after the aid was factored in. The supplemental poverty measure was 2.6 percentage points lower than its pre-pandemic level in 2019. Stimulus payments moved 11.7 million people out of poverty, while expanded unemployment benefits kept 5.5 million from falling into poverty. Social Security continued to be the nation's most effective anti-poverty program.

Book: Top US officer feared Trump could order China strike

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fearful of Donald Trump's actions in his final weeks as president, the United States' top military officer twice called his Chinese counterpart to assure him that the two nations would not suddenly go to war, a senior defense official said Tuesday after the conversations were described in excerpts from a forthcoming book. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley told Gen. Li Zuocheng of the People's Liberation Army that the United States would not strike. One call took place on Oct. 30, 2020, four days before the election that defeated Trump. The second call was on Jan. 8, 2021, just two days after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of the outgoing chief executive. Trump said Milley should be tried for treason if the report was true.

Nicholas, now a tropical depression, still douses Gulf Coast

SURFSIDE BEACH, Texas (AP)—Tropical Storm Nicholas continued weakening Tuesday night after being downgraded to a tropical depression and slowing to a crawl over southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana, drenching both states with flooding rains. The downgrade earlier Tuesday evening came the same day Nicholas blew ashore as a Category 1 hurricane, knocking out power to a half-million homes and businesses and dumping more than a foot (30.5 centimeters) of rain along the same area swamped by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Nicholas could potentially stall over storm-battered Louisiana and bring life-threatening floods across the Deep South over the coming days, forecasters said.

Asia

North Korea fires 2 ballistic missiles into eastern waters

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two ballistic missiles toward the sea in defiance of U.N. resolutions, the second weapons test in several days that experts say shows it's pressing ahead with its arms build-up plans while nuclear diplomacy with the United States remains stalled.

The missiles, launched from central North Korea, landed in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to officials in Seoul and Tokyo. South Korea's military said South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities are analyzing more details about the launches.

"The firings threaten the peace and safety of Japan and the region and are absolutely outrageous," Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said. "The government of Japan is determined to further step up our vigilance and surveillance to be prepared for any contingencies."

Japan's coast guard said no ships or aircraft reported damage from the missiles.

The launches were a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that bar North Korea from engaging in any ballistic missile activities. But the U.N. council typically doesn't slap fresh sanctions on North Korea when it launches short-range missiles, like the ones fired Wednesday.

The latest launches came two days after North Korea said it tested a newly developed cruise missile twice over the weekend. North Korea's state media described the missile as a "strategic weapon of great significance," implying it was developed with the intent to carry nuclear warheads. According to North Korean accounts, the missile flew about 1,500 kilometers (930 miles), a distance putting all of Japan and U.S. military installations there within reach.

Many experts say the recent tests suggested North Korea is pushing to bolster its weapons arsenal while applying pressure on President Joe Biden's administration amid a deadlock in nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington.

"North Korea is implementing a schedule of missile development that was planned before Biden came to office. That schedule can be adjusted for political reasons but is primarily driven by security strategy and technical factors," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

Wednesday's launches came as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was in Seoul for meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and other senior officials to discuss the stalled nuclear negotiations with the North.

It's unusual for North Korea to make provocative launches when China, its last major ally and biggest aid provider, is engaged in a major diplomatic event.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan holds anti-invasion drill as China threat heightens

JIADONG, Taiwan (AP)—An F-16 screeched across the sky then landed on a highway surrounded by pineapple fields in southwestern Taiwan to quickly refuel before taking off again. Four military aircraft, including Taiwan's self-made Indigenous Defensive Fighter, the U.S.-made F-16V and the French-made Mirage 2000-5, landed in Jiadong early Wednesday morning—simulating what they would do if their air base were damaged by enemy forces. The simulation is part of Taiwan's five-day Han Guang military exercise designed to prepare the island's forces for an attack by China, which claims Taiwan as part of its own territory. The annual exercise was smaller this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the last two years, the threat from China has risen, as the People's Liberation Army flies fighter jets towards Taiwan on a near-daily basis in an effort to intimidate and harass the island's air forces.

Fukushima plant failed to probe cause of faulty filters

TOKYO (AP)—Officials at Japan's wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant have acknowledged they neglected to investigate the cause of faulty exhaust filters that are key to preventing radioactive pollution, after being forced to replace them twice. Representatives of the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, made the revelation Monday during a regular review of the Fukushima Daiichi plant at a meeting with Japanese regulatory authorities. Three reactors at the plant melted following a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011. The filters are designed to prevent particles from escaping into the air from a contaminated water treatment system—called Advanced Liquid Processing System—that removes selected radioactive isotopes in the water to below legal limits.

Minister pledges Taliban govt won't allow militant attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's new foreign minister said Tuesday that the Taliban governing the country remain committed to not allowing militants to use their territory to launch attacks. But he refused to say when or if the country's new rulers would create a more inclusive government. Without other political factions and women serving in the government, the Taliban seem unlikely to win international recognition as the legitimate leaders of Afghanistan. And without such recognition, the Afghan state is unable to tap billions of its funds frozen abroad, leaving it virtually bankrupt at a time of immense humanitarian need. The Taliban received sharp criticism last week after they announced a Cabinet made up entirely of men from their movement, including several on international terror lists. Taliban leaders previously had promised broader representation.

Small cargo plane loses contact in Indonesia's Papua

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)— Indonesian authorities lost contact with a small Rimbun Air cargo airplane 50 minutes after it took off Wednesday in the country's easternmost province Papua. Local airport authorities with the National Search and Rescue Agency are searching for the plane. The Twin Otter 300 plane was heading to Intan Jaya district from Nabre district with construction materials on board. The Transportation Ministry in a statement said a pilot, co-pilot and technician are on board. "Until now, there has been no communication with the Rimbun Air PK-OTW plane," Adita Irawati, the ministry spokesperson said.

World

Third shot: UK to offer COVID booster jabs to over 50s

LONDON (AP)—The U.K. announced Tuesday it will offer a third dose of coronavirus vaccine to everyone over 50 and other vulnerable people to help the country ride out the pandemic through the winter months.

The booster shots, which will be rolled out beginning next week, were approved a day after the Conservative government also backed plans to offer one vaccine dose to children 12 to 15 years old.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization, which advises the government, recommended that booster shots be offered to everyone over 50, health care workers, people with underlying health conditions and those who live with people whose immune systems are compromised. They will be given no earlier than six months after a person received their second dose of vaccine.

Around 30 million people will be eligible for the booster shots, which aim to protect against a modest waning in immunity among those who have received two jabs.

"The result of this vaccination campaign is we have one of the most free societies and one of the most open economies in Europe," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told reporters on Tuesday. "That's why we're now sticking with our strategy."

Although the number of people now contracting COVID-19 is way higher than this time last year—over 30,000 new infections a day—the British government has opted not to re-introduce further virus restrictions for England, as the vaccine drive this year has reduced the number of people requiring treatment for COVID-19 and subsequently dying.

Johnson

However, Johnson said the government was ready to reintroduce measures over the coming weeks and months if the pressure on hospitals becomes acute. The number of people in U.K. hospitals with COVID-19 stands at around 8,500, way down from the near 40,000 that were hospitalized earlier this year during a catastrophic second wave of the pandemic.

Measures held in reserve include mandatory mask-wearing, vaccine certifications for nightclubs and other large-scale events, though not pubs, and a requirement for people to work from home.

"When you've got a large proportion, as we have now, with immunity, then smaller changes can make a bigger difference and give us the confidence that we don't have to go back to the lockdowns of the past," Johnson said. "In the meantime, we are confident in the vaccines that have made such a difference to our lives."

The JCVI said the Pfizer vaccine should be the primary choice for booster shots, with a half-dose of Moderna as an alternative. It said these messenger RNA vaccines are more effective as booster shots. The AstraZeneca vaccine shot, which is based on a different technology, will be offered to anyone who can't receive an RNA vaccine for clinical reasons.

The decision to offer booster shots is not one that's being recommended by the World Health Organization, which has asked wealthy nations to delay giving them out until every country has vaccinated at least 40% of their people. Only a few other wealthy countries have recommended their use. In the United States, the FDA is publicly debating booster shots later this week.

England's chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, said it's hugely important that developing countries get the jabs they need but pointed to the difficulties in transporting the Pfizer vaccine, which has a relatively short shelf-life and needs to be kept at super-chilled temperatures.

Appealing to everyone eligible for a vaccine to get one as soon as possible, Whitty said there is a "very substantially smaller" risk of being admitted to a hospital with COVID-19 if someone is vaccinated compared to those who are not. He said someone in their 30s who is unvaccinated is running the same level of risk as someone in their 70s who is vaccinated.

"One of the most depressing things for doctors, including myself, is talking to people who have just chosen not to get vaccinated because it wasn't convenient at that particular moment. And you see them being wheeled down to intensive care, and you know this was a very serious problem as a result of them not being vaccinated," he said.

Putin in self-isolation due to COVID cases in inner circle

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin entered self-isolation after people in his inner circle became infected with the coronavirus, the Kremlin said Tuesday, adding that the leader himself tested negative for COVID-19.

Putin, who is fully vaccinated with Russia's Sputnik V, held several public engagements indoors Monday and even said that he may have to quarantine soon. An aide at the time sought to suggest he was speaking generally and insisted Tuesday that no one's heath was endangered.

During a daily conference call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Putin, 68, is "absolutely healthy" but had come in contact with someone who contracted the virus. Asked if Putin tested negative for the virus, Peskov said "definitely, yes."

Peskov didn't say when Putin began self-isolating, when he tested negative, how long he would remain in self-isolation or who among the president's contacts was infected.

During a videoconference with government officials and members of the ruling United Russia party, Putin said that several people in his "immediate circle" were infected with the virus, including a staff member who he was in close contact with throughout Monday.

That staffer was vaccinated and recently got "revaccinated," Putin said, apparently referring to a third shot that Russia is offering people who were immunized more than six months ago.

"Three days after revaccination he fell ill," Putin said. "We will see how Sputnik V really works."

Even the most highly effective coronavirus vaccines in use don't prevent all infections, but they reduce the risk of getting seriously sick or dying from COVID-19.

Russian authorities have been regularly criticized for underplaying the pandemic and for rarely imposing measures to control it even in the face of infection surges.

In this July 20, 2021 file photo, Haiti's designated Prime Minister Ariel Henry, center, and interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, right, pose for a group photo with other authorities in front of a portrait of slain Haitian President Jovenel Moise at the National Pantheon Museum during a memorial service for Moise in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. AP

Haiti prosecutor seeks to charge PM in killing, is replaced

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A new chief prosecutor was sworn in Tuesday just hours after his predecessor asked a judge to charge Prime Minister Ariel Henry in the slaying of the president and to bar him from leaving Haiti, a move that could further destabilize a country roiled by turmoil following the assassination and a recent major earthquake.

The request filed by Port-au-Prince prosecutor Bed-Ford Claude, who was fired by Henry, came on the same day that the prosecutor had asked that the prime minister come to a meeting and explain why he spoke twice with a key suspect in the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse just hours after the killing.

"There are enough compromising elements ... to prosecute Henry and ask for his outright indictment," Claude wrote before he was replaced by Frantz Louis Juste, a prosecutor who oversaw the case involving the deaths of more than a dozen children in a fire at an orphanage near Port-au-Prince last year.

A spokesman for Henry could not be reached for comment.

It wasn't clear if Claude's removal would have any impact on the case, but an analyst noted that the investigation is in the hands of a judge.

It wasn't clear if Claude was officially removed before he made the request to the judge. The Associated Press obtained a letter dated Monday in which Henry told Claude that he was being fired for an undefined "serious administrative fault" and that the decision was effective as soon as he received the document.

Claude did not respond to a request for comment on his firing or when he got the letter.

Claude said the phone calls in question were made at 4:03 a.m. and 4:20 a.m. on July 7, adding that evidence shows the suspect, Joseph Badio, was in the vicinity of Moïse's home at that time. Badio once worked for Haiti's Ministry of Justice and at the government's anti-corruption unit until he was fired in May amid accusations of violating unspecified ethical rules.

LOVED WITH A LOVE BEYOND TELLING,
MISSED WITH A GRIEF BEYOND ALL TEARS.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

†JAMES G. SABLAN

SUNRISE: MAY 26, 1971 SUNSET: SEPTEMBER 01, 2021

Was called by his Creator to his Eternal Rest to join his parents:
†Gregorio "Eko" & †Mary Sablan

His Brothers: †Serphin Single, † Stan "Eipap" Sablan & †Jimmy "Big Tuna" Sablan

His Sister: †Lucy "Lucita" Sablan

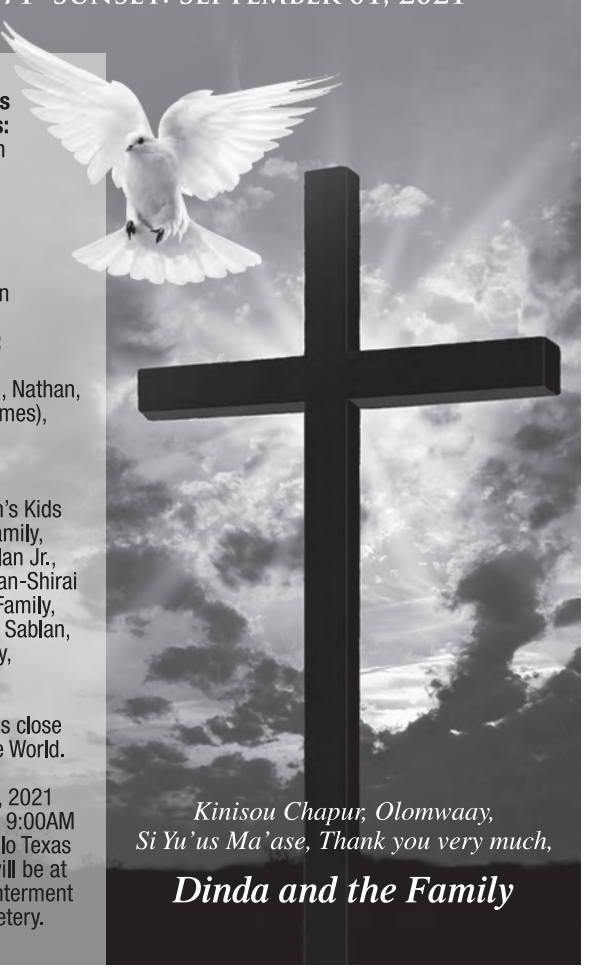
Forever Loved and Missed by:

His Wife, Dinda and their Children: Jamal, Nathan, Dianne, Dierra (Frankie), Natasha (James), and granddaughter (Solen)

His Brothers and Sisters:
†Serphin Single's Family, †Stan Sablan's Kids and grandkids, Rosendo Sablan & Family, †Jimmy Sablan's daughter, Greg Sablan Jr., Domaita Sablan & Family, Presenta Sablan-Shirai & Family, Caroline Sablan-Bernard & Family, Grace Sablan-Choban & Family, Jacoba Sablan, Merilyn Innocenti-Mailur & Family, and Memorina Sablan.

He is additionally survived by numerous close relatives, family and friends all over the World.

Last respect will be on September 16, 2021 to September 17, 2021 from 3:00PM to 9:00AM (Bella) at the Sablan residence; Falughulo Texas Rd., Susupe. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.



Kinisou Chapur, Olomwaay,
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank you very much,

Dinda and the Family

Environment

Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje hosted a successful cleanup over the weekend, on Kilili Beach in Susupe. The beach cleanup, her last as the reigning queen, was held in partnership with Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

'We are change makers'

The role of the community in environmental protection

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Two environmental activities happened last Saturday that emphasized the role the community, especially the youth, plays in keeping the islands clean—the Green Gala, and the Beach Clean Up hosted by Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje.

One of the awardees at the Green Gala, organized by the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, was Saipan Community School, which won the Environmental Heroes Award, having been implementing recycling programs, tree plantings, and beach cleanups, among many others.

School principal Amanda Dunn underscored in an interview the importance of teaching environmental stewardship to the youth, and sustaining that learning, in order to help keep the islands clean and pristine.

It is Dunn's hope that students in the CNMI can continue to learn about the power they have for change.

Saipan Community School

"The No. 1 thing we teach [the students] is to refuse," Dunn said. "Don't buy the plastic things if you don't need them. …That they need to refuse plastics they don't need. It's hard on this island, with the food processing and everything. There's so much plastic, and so refusing, and then trying out how you can reduce your use [are important]."

In addition to "refusing," they also have a recycling program, done through the whole school, where everyone, from kindergarten through eighth grade, bring used plastic and paper, which they take to the Recycling Center in Lower Base. It is a learning process, according to Dunn, admitting that there are months when they are really good at it, and some, when they need to try harder. The key, however, is into giving the children ownership of the programs.

"Giving them ownership of the great things they can do and empowering them is what it's all about. If they feel empowered to, say, not use that plastic straw, and they feel empowered to try to tell someone else the good thing about not doing that, is not just cliché, but is actually making the difference," Dunn said.

These programs could be as simple as the school's "Crayola Recycle Program" where they send their crayola markers off to the Recycling Center so they can be recycled and reused.

Once a year, at the end of the year, Dunn brings the eighth graders to her house, where they also get to learn how recycling is done at her home. At her house, the students see the segregation bins that they have, where "trash' are segregated to be then recycled.

"They come in and they [would say], 'Oh, so you do this at home, too?', and then [I would say] 'Yes, that's what I'm trying to teach you to do at home too,' and so it starts."

Dunn said she loves hearing when students tell her they have set up more trash cans for their parents too, emphasizing that being eco-avengers "starts at home." "We will teach them but you got to keep it sustained, and keep them encouraged," she said. "Learning, growing, and failing. We fail a lot, but I want them to know how to fail so they know how to get back up because we definitely fail, and that's where you succeed is by failing."

"We are change makers and I really want them to know that every single choice they make is the next step for something big. And so, to make those big changes and to do great things, that's what this is all about doing great things," Dunn added.

Miss NMI Earth, Naked Fish lead beach cleanup

Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje hosted a successful cleanup over the weekend, on Kilili Beach in Susupe. The beach cleanup, her last as the reigning queen, was held in partnership with Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

In an interview, Terlaje said she partnered with Naked Fish as it is one of the most eco-friendly businesses on Saipan, in order to encourage the community to take part in advocating for a cleaner CNMI.

"A beach cleanup is way more than picking pieces of trash along our beach," she added. "It is about bringing the community together, especially our youth, to inspire each other to protect the home we all share. The trash found on our beaches will soon travel into the ocean, where our ocean's wildlife will be most vulnerable to our waste, if not picked up and put in a responsible area."

Terlaje wants the younger generations to be able to have the same experiences that she had growing up in the Marianas she loves and admires. "In order to do so, we must continue to conserve, preserve, and maintain the wellbeing of our land and sea. Our children will thank us, one day, and that is what inspires me."

Naked Fish owner Joe Guerrero echoed Terlaje's advocacy for a pristine Marianas, adding that their business implements eco-friendly practices—including the use of reusable straws, eliminating the use of plastic bags, and the use of compostable takeout containers. They also have recycled over a thousand pounds of bottles and cardboard.

Guerrero said they have organized several beach cleanups on their own to help keep the "Hafa Adai yan Tirow" spirit alive.

Aside from Naked Fish Bar & Grill, other local businesses that joined in the cleanup were Ina's Kitchen, Caravan of Foods, Salty Skin Pacific, Tylers Gelatte Stone, The Hut, Turnkey Solution, and the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

This Saturday, Sept. 18, the CNMI will once again be joining the rest of the world in the International Coastal Cleanup. The Division of Coastal Resources Management is inviting the community to come together, and help collect and document trash that have been littering the islands' coastlines and waterways.

To join the ICC cleanup, or for more information, contact Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or (670) 664-8300/8316 (for Saipan); Edwin Hofschneider at ehofschneider@dcrm.gov.mp or (670) 433-3169 (for Tinian); or William "Bill" Pendergrass at wpendergrass@dcrm.gov.mp or (670) 532-0466.

Life & Style

Nolan sets next film with Universal, spurning Warner Bros.

NEW YORK (AP)—After a public fallout over release strategy with Warner Bros., Christopher Nolan's next film, about J. Robert Oppenheimer and the development of the atom bomb, will be released by Universal Pictures.

Representatives for the studio confirmed Tuesday that Universal has acquire the rights to finance and distribute Nolan's not-yet-titled film. Deadline Hollywood first reported the deal.

Nolan also wrote the film's script about the theoretical physicist. Production is expected to begin early next year.

With only a handful of exceptions, Warner Bros. had long been home to Nolan going back to 2002's "Insomnia." With the studio he made "The Dark Knight" trilogy, the best-picture nominee "Dunkirk," the 2010 mind-bender "Inception" and 2020's time-traveling "Tenet." (Warner Bros. handled international distribution on 2006's "The Prestige" and 2014's "Interstellar.")

Last year, Warner Bros. launched "Tenet" in theaters in September at a time when much of the film industry was timid about releasing big-budget movies. The sci-fi thriller ultimately grossed $363.7 million, making it easily the biggest Hollywood pandemic release of the year.

But when Warner Bros. in December announced plans to release all of its 2021 films simultaneously on HBO Max, Nolan—long an ardent advocate for the theatrical experience—was one of the studio's harshest critics. In a statement, he said "some of our industry's biggest filmmakers and most important movie stars went to bed the night before thinking they were working for the greatest movie studio and woke up to find out they were working for the worst streaming service."

"Warner Bros. had an incredible machine for getting a filmmaker's work out everywhere, both in theaters and in the home, and they are dismantling it as we speak," wrote Nolan. "They don't even understand what they're losing. Their decision makes no economic sense, and even the most casual Wall Street investor can see the difference between disruption and dysfunction."

Shortly thereafter, he called the studio's plans "a mess" in an interview with The Associated Press.

"It's a unilateral decision that the studio took. They didn't even tell the people involved," Nolan said. "You have these great filmmakers who worked with passion and diligence for years on projects that are intended to be feature films with fantastic movie stars. And they've all now been told that they're a loss-leader for a fledgling streaming service."

Prosecutors: Tapes capture R. Kelly threatening his victims

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors want a New York City jury at the R. Kelly sex-trafficking trial to hear profane video and audio recordings they say demonstrate how he threatened his victims with violence.

On one of the 2008 tapes, an enraged Kelly can be heard accusing an unidentified woman of lying to him before beginning to assault her, according to a court document filed on Tuesday in federal court in Brooklyn.

"If you lie to me, I'm going to f--- you up," Kelly says.

The star R&B singer is captured on another recording berating a second woman from Florida, identified as a "Jane Doe" he accused of stealing a Rolex watch from him, the filing says.

"You better not ever … take from me again or I will be in Florida and something will happen to you," he says. "You understand what I'm telling you?"

Prosecutors had planned to call the second woman as a witness. But they decided against it after she "started to have panic attacks and appeared to have an emotional breakdown" while listening to the tape in preparation for her testimony, the filing says.

The defendant bragged about having "cameras everywhere" in his Chicago studio and other locations he used to keep an eye on his victims, it adds.

Kelly, now 54, has pleaded not guilty to racketeering and other charges accusing him of sexually abusing several women, girls and boys during the course of his 30-year singing career. He has vehemently denied the charges, claiming that the women were groupies who wanted to take advantage of his fame and fortune achieved through hits like "I Believe Can Fly."

Manson's lawyer: Accuser consented to bodily fluids

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A videographer who accuses Marilyn Manson of spitting and blowing his nose on her during a concert in New Hampshire consented to being exposed to bodily fluids, according to an attorney for the musical artist.

Manson

Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner, is charged with two misdemeanor counts of simple assault stemming from the encounter at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion in Gilford on Aug. 19, 2019.

According to police, Manson approached videographer Susan Fountain in the venue's stage pit area, put his face close to her camera and spit at her. He also is accused of blowing his nose on her arm and hands.

In court documents made public Tuesday, Manson's attorney Kent Barker argues that type of filming Fountain was doing commonly exposes videographers to "incidental contact" with bodily fluids.

"The defendant's performance for the past twenty years are well known to include shocking and evocative antics similar to those that occurred here," Barker wrote.

Norm Macdonald remembered as hilarious and unique

NEW YORK (AP)—Reactions to the death of Norm Macdonald, who died of cancer Tuesday at age 61.

"I am absolutely devastated about Norm Macdonald. Norm had the most unique comedic voice I have ever encountered and he was so relentlessly and uncompromisingly funny. I will never laugh that hard again. I'm so sad for all of us today."—Conan O'Brien on Twitter.

"Every one of us loved Norm. Some of the hardest laughs of my life with this man. Most fearless funny original guy we knew. An incredible dad. A great friend. A legend. Love u pal."—Adam Sandler on Instagram.

"Norm was in a comedy genre of his own. No one like him on this planet. Please do yourself a favor and watch his stuff. He was one of a kind of all time"—Sarah Silverman on Twitter.

"He was one of our most precious gems. An honest and courageous comedy genius. I love him."—Jim Carrey, via Twitter.

Norm Macdonald appears at KAABOO 2017 in San Diego on Sept. 16, 2017. AMY HARRIS/INVISION/AP

"The world was a much funnier place because Norm Macdonald was in it. We've lost a comedic genius, and a great Canadian. Sending my condolences to his loved ones and countless fans mourning his passing."—Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, on Twitter.

"Norm was a great talent, and I loved laughing with him on SNL. (asterisk)Bob Dole(asterisk) will miss Norm Macdonald."—Former Senator Bob Dole, who Macdonald often played on "Saturday Night Live," via Twitter.

"He was an original. When I watched young comics on the early comedy TV shows, like The Improv or Catch a Rising Star, I'd study each comic's style and think, oh yeah, he's doing Leno or he's doing Letterman or he's doing Rickles. When Norm came on, I said he's not doing anybody."—Bob Newhart, in an emailed statement.

Wife of three decades has never initiated intimacy

DEAR ABBY: After 28 years of marriage, is it strange that I would like my wife to initiate sex? I would like to know that she is interested, not just me. When I brought it up three weeks ago, her response again was, "We can whenever you want to," which wasn't true because I have been turned down before. Any suggestions? She stays home all day and wants for nothing. Do you think she's getting it somewhere else?

FRUSTRATED IN THE BEDROOM

DEAR FRUSTRATED: I hope your wife is intelligent enough to recognize a red flag when it's waved in front of her. I have a strong hunch that she isn't "getting it somewhere else." It's more likely she no longer has a strong sex drive at this point in her life, or she may never have. Also, she may not know HOW to initiate and need coaching. If you can't teach her, enlist the aid of a sex therapist. (Your doctor may be able to refer you to one.) If you do, it may not only spice up but save your marriage.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live on the opposite coast from my family. During the pandemic, my youngest brother and his wife bought a new, very large house. He told me they had plenty of room and, the next time we come for a visit, they want us to stay with them. Well, that visit will be in November, but no invitation to stay has been extended. Should I remind my brother about his invitation, or should we just book a hotel? My gut instinct is to book the hotel, but my brother is very sensitive to how the family treats him, and I don't want to hurt his feelings. What should I do?

BIG SIS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BIG SIS: Ask your brother if his offer still stands, since it has been some time since he extended his "generous invitation." Listen carefully to his reaction. If you sense that he may have forgotten or the situation has changed because of COVID, tell him it would not be a problem for you to book accommodations at a hotel if it's more convenient. Doing this should not cause hurt feelings.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 32 years. We are still in love and consider each other our best friend. We survived some rough patches and learned how to make things right. I have one concern at this point in our journey. My wife constantly says, "I hate myself." The more she says it out loud, the more I see the impact on her emotionally. What can a partner do to help? I'm 100% supportive of all she does and totally attracted to her, yet I can't see this being healthy. Please help and thanks.

DIRTY WORDS IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

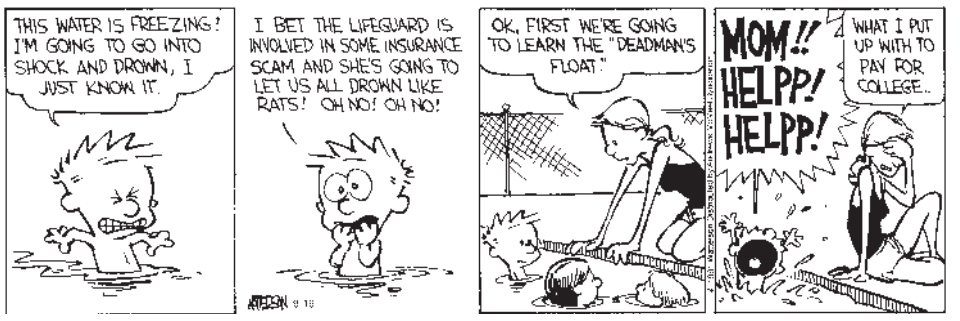
DEAR DIRTY WORDS: The next time your wife tells you she hates herself, ask her why she is being so hard on herself and ask her to be specific about what it is she hates. Explain that you love her exactly as she is and worry that what she's doing isn't emotionally healthy. (I agree, by the way.) If she persists after that, suggest she make an appointment with a licensed mental health professional to discuss it.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS WATER IS FREEZING! I'M GOING TO GO INTO SHOCK AND DROWN, I JUST KNOW IT.
I BET THE LIFEGUARD IS INVOLVED IN SOME INSURANCE SCAM AND SHE'S GOING TO LET US ALL DROWN LIKE RATS! OH NO! OH NO!
OK, FIRST WE'RE GOING TO LEARN THE "DEADMAN'S FLOAT."
MOM!! HELPP! HELPP!
WHAT I PUT UP WITH TO PAY FOR COLLEGE...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

PREPARE, SUMMER CHILD. FOR WINTER APPROACHETH.
KATY. IT'S NICE OUT. STOP BEING DRAMATIC.
AH, YOUTH. FEEL YOU NOT THE APPROACHING CHILL?
"POET KATY" IS WAY ANNOYING.
IT MAY BE A ROUGH WINTER. SHE USUALLY DOESN'T SHOW UP TILL THE 25TH OR SO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING?
A VIDEO GAME, AND IT'S THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND.
IT'S CALLED "THE WORLD'S GREATEST LOAFER." IT'S DOWN TO ME AND SOME GUY IN HOLLAND.
HOW'S IT GOING?
IF MY GUY CAN STAY ON THE COUCH THROUGHOUT THIS ALIEN INVASION, I WIN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Glam Gardner
4 Sunrise direction
8 Morsels
12 Cover
13 Winter fall
14 Booty
15 Washroom
17 Oklahoma tribe
18 Anger
19 Graceful
21 Grammy category
24 Director Lee
25 GI's address
26 Pas' mates
28 Hinder
32 Skulk
34 Alphabet end
36 Lavish affection (on)
37 To date
39 Young bloke
41 Cen. parts
42 "You bet!"
44 Waist-cinching garment
46 Currently stylish
50 Snip
51 Fuzzy fruit
52 Hearing-related
56 Similar
57 Genuine
58 Kanga's kid
59 Safe-cracker
60 Differently
61 Longing

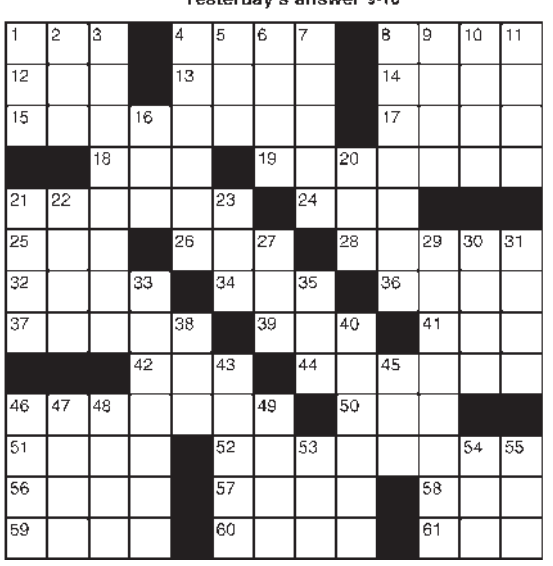
DOWN

1 100%
2 By way of
3 Warning
4 Honor
5 Year, in San Juan
6 Achy
7 Tharp of dance
8 Opined online
9 Speck
10 Animated figure
11 Dele undoer
16 Dadaist artist
20 Finale
21 Big bash
22 Piece of work
23 Remiss
27 Wd. division
29 Buzz Lightyear's film
30 To be, in Tours
31 Kick back
33 Jangling purse item
35 Efron of "Parkland"
38 Golf peg
40 Pliant
43 Entrap
45 Trench
46 Fine
47 Goddess of victory
48 Tiny branch
49 Sword fight
53 "— Kapital"
54 Shad product
55 Thither

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	A	D		C	A	M		A	P	P	S	
E	M	U		U	R		S	M	I	R	O	
M	O	E		R	I	C	E	W	I	N	E	S
P	I	L	A	T			E	I	N			
			C	E	L	E		N	O	T	E	S
R	U	N	S	W	I	L	D		R	O	T	E
A	H			S	A	L	E	M		R	A	T
G	U	T	S		R		F	E	W	I	T	H
S	H	E	E	P		S	T	A	T			
			L	E	G			N	S	Y	N	C
R	E	A	L	W	O	R	L	D		A		P
O	G	L	E		B	A	S	E		R	C	A
B	O	E	R		S	P	U	R		D	E	B

Yesterday's answer 9-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Jonas, 29; Alexis Bledel, 40; Alex Rice, 49; Amy Poehler, 50.

Happy Birthday: Set goals and follow through. Opportunity and advancement are yours to have if you are true to yourself and strive to accomplish what you set out to do. It's up to you to initiate change, present and promote what you have to offer, and forge ahead with confidence, precision and fortitude. Don't be afraid to do things differently. Your numbers are 6, 14, 23, 26, 31, 38, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Lean toward those who owe you a favor; you'll get the boost you need to make your way forward. An unexpected offer will give you a chance to revise the way you plan your next step. Nurture a meaningful relationship. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A wait-and-see approach will be in your best interest. Handle sticky situations with kid gloves, and you will buy yourself time and earn favors from those vying for your support. Mull over your choices; you'll find something questionable. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You're in the driver's seat; navigate your way to the place you want to go. Be proactive and make decisions that will help you establish yourself in a position of authority. Call the shots and show everyone what you have to offer. 5 stars

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You have more power than you realize. Refuse to let the requests others make stop you from doing what suits you. A change at home may not be welcome, but in the end, it will turn out better than anticipated. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Talk matters through passionately. Have alternatives ready to offer. Set a precedent and show leadership. Protect against discord with someone you love and avoid taking risks that can affect your physical well-being. Aim to please, but don't give in to an unreasonable request. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll have to walk a fine line when dealing with competitive people. Be prepared to learn from your experience and adjust quickly to offset any potential fallout that might set you back on your quest to get your way. 5 stars

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* An emotional matter will escalate if you get involved in a joint endeavor. Do your own thing when it comes to what you want to accomplish, and keep conversations positive in social settings. Finish what you start and avoid criticism. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen and observe what others do and say before taking on something that takes your time and energy. Make adjustments that ensure you get to do the things that make you happy. A romantic gesture or physical improvement will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Update your resume, or make changes to how you earn your living or handle your current position. An opportunity will come your way if you get in touch with someone familiar with your background and credentials. Get the facts before you act. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay more attention to expenses and how you use your money. Look for alternative ways to update your banking, handle your debt or improve your lifestyle. Don't participate in events or activities that present a health risk. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Channel your energy into something that makes you happy or brings you knowledge and assistance heading in a direction that offers mental stimulation and the chance to excel. Keep your wallet in a safe place, and avoid health risks. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Work in the background, where you'll go unnoticed. Aim to achieve the most in the least amount of time. What you accomplish will pave the way to positive change and a chance to make financial gains. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, accommodating and sensitive. You are expressive and convincing.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	4			6			
	9			8			6	7
					5			1
2		7	8		9			
	1						9	
			4		7	3		2
5			9					
1	2			7			4	
			3			2	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	8	6	1	3	9	5	2
3	1	6	2	5	9	7	8	4
5	9	2	4	8	7	6	1	3
8	3	5	9	4	1	2	7	6
6	4	1	7	2	5	3	9	8
7	2	9	3	6	8	5	4	1
2	8	3	5	7	4	1	6	9
1	6	7	8	9	2	4	3	5
9	5	4	1	3	6	8	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GESUNDHEIT — Solution: 8 letters

B	S	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	A	I	C	O	S
W	Y	O	F	N	B	U	O	Y	K	N	A	H	T	U
E	S	G	O	U	R	L	S	H	T	L	A	E	H	O
H	E	S	R	D	E	T	A	E	P	E	R	T	R	I
P	E	S	M	E	F	L	L	S	S	N	W	H	O	T
O	T	R	A	R	L	S	U	S	U	O	T	S	A	I
W	I	E	L	E	E	L	D	T	R	A	U	A	T	T
E	S	W	M	V	X	L	A	G	E	D	L	L	S	S
R	S	S	K	O	O	T	O	R	D	Z	L	U	A	R
F	U	N	I	C	I	O	B	E	E	Y	E	T	N	E
U	E	A	Ⓓ	O	D	G	N	U	L	P	Y	E	O	P
L	M	A	N	Ⓝ	E	R	S	H	T	U	O	M	N	U
Y	L	P	E	R	Ⓘ	L	U	F	E	T	A	R	G	S
W	I	S	H	E	S	Ⓚ	O	E	T	I	L	O	P	U
E	S	A	R	H	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	I	O	N

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Allergy, Answer, Breath, Burst, Colds, Cover, Formal, Goodness, Gosh, Grateful, Growth, Health, Kid, Kind, Languages, Lung, Manners, Mouth, Nose, Phew, Phrase, Polite, Powerful, Prevention, Proper, Reflex, Repeated, Reply, Salud, Salute, Sanon, Smell, Sneeze, Social, Soul, Sternutation, Sudden, Superstitious, Thank You, Throat, Tissue, Wishes, Yell

Yesterday's Answer: Quickly

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Rays beat Blue Jays, becoming 1st AL team to reach 90 wins

TORONTO (AP)—Drew Rasmussen combined with four relievers on a three-hitter, Brandon Lowe and Ji-Man Choi homered and the Tampa Bay Rays became the first AL team to reach 90 wins by beating the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0 Tuesday night.

After losing four of their previous five, the East-leading Rays hit the 90-win mark for the eighth time — all in the past 14 seasons.

Tampa Bay (90-55) stopped a two-game losing streak.

Toronto began the day in the AL wild card lead, one game ahead of the New York Yankees and Boston.

Rasmussen (3-1) allowed two hits in five innings. Andrew Kittredge pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

Choi's leadoff drive in the second, his 10th home run this season, was the only run allowed by José Berríos (11-8), who lost for the first time in four starts despite scattering four hits over seven innings.

Lowe hit his 34th home run of the season in the eighth on the first pitch he saw from left-hander Tim Mayza.

Tampa Bay Rays' Brandon Lowe throws to first after forcing out Toronto Blue Jays' Marcus Semien at second base, on a double play hit into bu Vladimir Guerrero Jr. during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, in Toronto. AP

Giants 6, Padres 1

In San Francisco, Buster Posey homered in the first inning and scored the go-ahead run on an error in the third, and San Francisco beat San Diego for its ninth straight victory a day after becoming the first team in the big leagues to clinch a playoff berth.

Brandon Belt and Darin Ruf each hit run-scoring doubles and Tommy La Stella added an RBI single to back Anthony DeSclafani (12-6).

With nine straight wins, the Giants have their longest winning streak since a 10-game unbeaten run from May 20-31, 2004.

DeSclafani allowed one run on three hits, struck out three and walked one over 6 2/3 innings.

Jake Arrieta (5-13) lasted just 3 2/3 innings for San Diego, which lost its fifth straight.

Yankees 7, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Aaron Judge started a five-homer barrage that backed Gerrit Cole, and New York beat Baltimore, winning consecutive games for the first time since Sept. 1 and 3.

Cole (15-7) returned from left hamstring tightness that cut short his Sept. 7 start against Toronto. He stranded the bases loaded in a 29-pitch first inning when he struck out Ramón Uris and allowed one run and four hits in five innings with seven strikeouts and three walks.

Judge hit a two-run homer in the first off a changeup from Alexander Wells (1-3), his 34th homer of the season. Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer in the third and Luke Voit followed for back-to-back homers. Joey Gallo added his 34th homer in the eighth and DJ LeMahieu homered in the ninth.

New York won for the third time in 11 games and tied Toronto for the AL-wild card lead with 17 games left. Boston was a half-game back heading into a late game at Seattle.

Ryan Mountcastle had an RBI double in the fifth for the Orioles, who at a major league-worst 46-98 are headed to 100 losses for the third straight full season.

Rockies 5, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Brendan Rodgers hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the fifth inning, Trevor Story went deep in the second and Colorado held on to beat Atlanta.

Jon Gray pitched five innings as the Rockies moved to 22-51 on the road coming off a four-game series win at Philadelphia. Carlos Estévez earned his eighth save in 13 chances.

NL East-leading Atlanta maintained its 4 1/2 game lead over Philadelphia. The Braves had won five of seven.

Adam Duvall, the NL RBI leader with 101, hit his 35th homer in the eighth.

Gray (8-10) allowed two runs and five hits with two walks and seven strikeouts.

Toussaint (3-3) was charged with four runs and five hits with three walks and five strikeouts in four-plus innings.

White Sox 9, Angels 3

In Chicago, rookie Gavin Sheets hit a long three-run homer and had four RBIs in his first three-hit game, and the White Sox beat Los Angeles in Joe Maddon's first game back in Chicago.

Sheets hit a go-ahead single in the second inning off Packy Naughton (0-2) and made it 6-1 with a three-run homer in the third. He narrowly missed a second home run when he doubled to the right-field wall in the fifth.

Maddon managed the Cubs for five years, leading them to the playoffs four times and a World Series title in 2016 that ended the team's 108-year championship drought. He left the Cubs after the 2019 season and was hired by the Angels.

Luis Robert had a solo homer and a double as the AL Central-leading White Sox expanded their margin over second-place Cleveland to 12 1/2 games.

Leury Garcíaa and César Hernandez each had two hits and an RBI for the White Sox (83-61), who reduced their magic number for clinching the division to seven.

Aaron Bummer (3-5) pitched a scoreless seventh.

Naughton (0-2) gave up four runs and six hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Pirates 6, Reds 5

In Pittsburgh, Wade Miley surrendered six runs on 10 hits and Cincinnati lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Miley (12-6) gave up three runs in the first and three more in the fifth before being pulled with one out. Chris Stratton earned his fifth save.

Pirates starter Dillon Peters (1-2) worked five shutout innings, surrendering five hits with five strikeouts to help Pittsburgh to its fifth win in seven games. Yoshi Tsutsugo and Jacob Stallings drove in two runs apiece.

Tucker Barnhart drove in two runs for the Reds. Nick Castellanos hit his 29th homer of the season in the ninth inning.

The Reds entered the day half a game ahead of the San Diego Padres and St. Louis Cardinals for the second wild card in the National League.

Rangers 8, Astros 1

In Arlington, Texas — All-Star slugger Adolis García tied the Rangers' single-season rookie record with his 30th homer, one of three long balls allowed by Zack Greinke in his return after testing positive for COVID-19.

Rangers starter Jordan Lyles (9-11) struck out seven, walked one and hit one while allowing only three singles over seven scoreless innings.

The Astros' only run came in the ninth inning on an RBI single by Carlos Correa off Josh Sborz.

Greinke (11-6) allowed eight runs on five hits and three walks while pitching into the sixth inning of his first start in 16 days.

Nathaniel Lowe hit a two-run homer that went 440 feet in the first inning. DJ Peters chased Greinke when he lined a three-run shot 421 feet into the Astros bullpen in left-center in the sixth.

García, who added two doubles, matched Pete Incaviglia, who hit 30 homers during his rookie season in 1986. With 18 games remaining, García also has 81 RBIs, seven off the Rangers' rookie record also held by Incaviglia.

Cardinals 7, Mets 6, 11 innings

In New York, Edmundo Sosa hit the go-ahead single in a three-run 11th inning and St. Louis climbed all the way back into playoff position with a win over New York.

New York scored twice in the bottom of the 11th and had two runners on when Kwang Hyun Kim retired pinch-hitter Albert Almora Jr. on a grounder for his second career save.

Pinch-hitter Andrew Knizner added a two-run single in the top half to give the Cardinals needed breathing room as they shook off Javier Báez's tying homer in the ninth.

Tyler O'Neill homered and drove in three runs for the Cardinals. They've won four straight and six of seven to vault into the second NL wild-card slot by a half-game over Cincinnati, which lost 6-5 in Pittsburgh.

Demoted closer Alex Reyes (8-8) got Francisco Lindor to ground into an inning-ending double play with runners at the corners in the 10th, firing up the Cardinals.

Rookie Jake Reed (0-1), just activated from the injured list, took the loss.

Tigers 1, Brewers 0, 11 innings

In Detroit, Derek Hill hit a leadoff RBI double in the 11th inning as Detroit ended Milwaukee's five-game win streak.

The Brewers loaded the bases with one out against Bryan Garcia (2-1) in the 11th before Christian Yelich grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Hill fell behind 0-2 while trying to bunt Victor Reyes to third, then lined the next pitch from Hunter Strickland (3-2) into right-center for a game-winning double.

Royals 10, Athletics 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the sixth inning, the Kansas City bullpen bailed out starter Jackson Kowar and the Royals rallied from an early six-run hole to beat Oakland.

Kyle Isbel hit his first career homer and Hunter Dozier also went deep, helping the Royals continue Oakland's late-season slide. The A's have lost three straight and seven of 10 to fall farther out of AL wild-card contention.

Perez finished with four RBIs, most coming on his towering homer off Yusmeiro Petit (8-2) over the visiting bullpen in left field.

Ervin Santana, Joel Payamps, Jake Brentz (5-2), Domingo Tapia, Josh Staumont and Scott Barlow surrendered just one run over the final eight innings. Barlow walked the first two in the ninth before finishing for his 13th save.

Indians 3, Twins 1, 1st game
Twins 6, Indians 3, 2nd game

In Minneapolis, Cleveland's Triston McKenzie cruised through six innings of the first game of a doubleheader to beat Minnesota when a comebacker off the wrist of Twins rookie Joe Ryan shortened the pitching duel.

Ryan Jeffers had four RBIs in the nightcap as the Twins gained a split.

McKenzie (5-6) had seven strikeouts, including Byron Buxton three times, with just three hits, one run and one walk allowed.

Bradley Zimmer homered in the fifth, and Austin Hedges hit a go-ahead RBI double in a two-run seventh against Danny Coulombe (3-2), before Emmanuel Clase closed it out with a perfect seventh for his 23rd save in 27 chances.

Kyle Barraclough (1-0) picked up the win in the nightcap. Alex Colomé earned his 14th save. Logan Allen (1-7) took the loss.

Cubs 6, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Patrick Wisdom and Alfonso Rivas hit back-to-back homers for Chicago in a win over a Philadelphia team running out of time to make a serious run in the NL playoff race.

The Phillies remained 4½ games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East and 2½ games behind Cincinnati in the wild-card race. San Diego and St. Louis are ahead of the Phillies for the second wild card.

The Phillies fell to .500 at 72-72 and have lost six of seven games.

Odubel Herrera hit a leadoff homer, and Bryce Harper and Didi Gregorius added RBI hits. Kyle Gibson (10-7) struck out seven in allowing five hits and four earned runs in five innings.

Rafael Ortega hit two RBI doubles and Ian Happ drove in another run with a double for Chicago.

Adrian Sampson (1-2) gave up two runs in five innings. Rowan Wick struck out the side in the ninth for his fourth save.

Nationals 8, Marlins 2

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman homered, Erick Fedde pitched five solid innings and Washington pounded out 14 hits in winning for the second time in three games.

Fedde (7-9) allowed a run on three hits with eight strikeouts and no walks.

Juan Soto had three hits, an RBI and a walk for Washington, and Keibert Ruiz had three hits.

Lewin Diaz homered twice for the Marlins. Miami starter Jesus Luzardo (5-8) allowed four runs on seven hits and was lifted after 4 1/3 innings.

No surprise: NFL quarterbacks making the most money by far

On and off the field, NFL quarterbacks—no surprise here—are making the most money. Even in a year when the salary cap has decreased, the big name passers are getting richer.

According to Forbes, the 10 biggest earners will collect about $418 million in salary, endorsements and other earnings. That's an increase of 9% over 2020.

The Cowboys' Dak Prescott tops the list mainly because of the four-year, $160 million contract he landed earlier in 2021. Prescott got a $66 million signing bonus—more money than a majority of NFL players ever see for their careers. So his overall earnings, pending more off-field deals, is at $87 million for the year.

Next up is Tom Brady, who is estimated to make nearly $45 million off the field from his many endorsements. He even has a new weekly radio show on SiriusXM. Overall, Brady will bring in $72.5 million.

Quarterbacks dominate the off-field earnings, with Patrick Mahomes getting $22 million, Russell Wilson $12 million, Aaron Rodgers $11 million, and first overall draft pick Trevor Lawrence at $6 million.

The lesson seems to be that even with the salary cap reduced from $198.2 million to $182.5 million, quarterbacks will get their money on the field, and off it.

In this Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, file photo, Dallas Cowboys' La'el Collins (71) and Dak Prescott (4) get ready for a preseason NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Arlington, Texas. AP

Source: 6 Saints coaches have positive COVID-19 tests

By BRETT MARTEL
AP SPORTS WRITER

Six unidentified members of the New Orleans Saints coaching staff, a player and a nutritionist have tested positive for COVID-19, two people familiar with the situation said.

The people spoke with The Associated Press on Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the team and NFL had not made a public statement about the matter. The people said the entire Saints coaching staff had been vaccinated.

Later Tuesday, Michael Thomas—who already was ineligible to play the first six games while on the club's physically unable to perform list—was place on New Orleans' COVID-19 reserve list.

The names of most others who tested positive were not expected to be released in the short term because of federal medical privacy laws.

It is unclear how long those who tested positive will remain isolated from the team before they may return to the field or in-person meetings.

For now, the entire team is operating under the NFL's enhanced mitigation protocols, meaning mandatory masking inside facilities, daily testing, no in-person meetings and grab-and-go meals.

The positive tests occurred in the wake of New Orleans' 38-3 victory over Green Bay on Sunday in Jacksonville, Florida, where the game was moved from the Superdome in the wake of damage caused to southeast Louisiana by Hurricane Ida.

The Saints have spent the past two weeks practicing in the Dallas area and are scheduled to continue practicing at TCU this week before traveling to Carolina for their Week 2 game on Sunday. That game remains on track to go ahead as scheduled.

HELMET ADVANCEMENTS

The first position-specific helmets made for use in the NFL will be on the field this weekend.

The latest helmet from manufacturer VICIS specifically for offensive and defensive linemen was released last winter and received approval from the NFL and players' union for use in the 2021 season.

VICIS vice president of product development Jason Neubauer said a handful of players are expected to be using the Zero2 Trench helmet to begin the season, and that 30 of the 32 teams in the league have placed an order for the helmet.

"We're in the range of between five and 10 players that have been wearing it through preseason and are most likely to be wearing it in Game 1," Neubauer said. "But football players are really unusual. When you have a new helmet come out, some of them are going to pop into it early in the season and some of them are going to try it midseason."

VICIS, Riddell, Xenith and Schutt all have made models that have rated highly in the league's testing in recent years. The VICIS Zero2 Matrix was the highest-rated helmet in testing for 2021 and the Zero2 Trench was second.

The Zero2 Trench, which has additional support in the front where most head impacts take place for offensive and defensive linemen, is a step the league has been pushing toward in the development of position-specific helmets.

Neubauer said VICIS wants to see how well the Trench is received before moving forward with other position-specific development.

"We're not sure where we'll go from here," Neubauer said. "We definitely believe that linemen is the largest group and that we've chosen wisely as far as where we should start."

HUB CAMPS

A total of 18 players from the HUB Football camps were invited to NFL training camps in the summer and three landed on practice squads: linebacker LB Emmanuel Ellerbee (Atlanta), wide receiver Jordan Veasy (Houston) and tight end Jordan Matthews (San Francisco).

Founded by NFL agent Don Yee, HUB Football is another tool for free agents to be seen. The majority of its participants are players who recently spent time with NFL teams, but also included in the camps are recent college players seeking their first shot at making an NFL, CFL or other professional roster. The Chargers new placekicker Tristan Vizcaino attended such camps in late 2020.

HUB Football previously hosted four camps this year in San Diego, with another 14 players getting contracts in the CFL. Unlike combine-style workouts, the camps are designed to mimic workouts that take place at NFL facilities. Players do individual work with position coaches, while also competing in one-on-one and team-style drills.

"It's been very encouraging to see the number of signings coming from players who've taken part in HUB Camps," Yee says. "Clearly, teams around the league have taken notice of the talent level of the players who are coming in to work out, and with HUB we're providing them with an opportunity that doesn't exist anywhere else. There's just no other program out there like this where teams can come in and scout 60 to 70 NFL and CFL-ready free agents in one location in a single day. It's impossible to find that anywhere else.

"And for the players who are sitting at home waiting for the phone to ring, they now have a place to proactively showcase their skills, rather than waiting or hoping for a team to call them. Players see other players getting signed from our camps and now we have a waiting list of guys itching to get in because of the results we've been seeing."

The next free agent workout camp will be Sept. 29 at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, California.

SWEET DREAMS

Houston Texans wideout Brandin Cooks has five 1,000-yard receiving seasons with four teams in seven seasons in the NFL. He's caught passes from Drew Brees, Tom Brady, Jared Goff and Deshaun Watson. Now he'll be on the opposite end of Tyrod Taylor's throws.

"I never get into the comparison game with my quarterbacks," Cooks said. "Tyrod is a competitor. He's been playing this game for a really long time. He's a natural leader as well. So you love coming to work with him every single day. And I love the way that he goes about his business."

Cooks is giving back to QBs and other players by introducing them to a new form of light therapy that he uses for his anxiety and sleep issues called an Allay Lamp. This therapy was discovered and patented by Harvard Medical School neuroscientist Dr. Rami Burstein. It uses a specific, narrow band of green light to generate electrical signals in the brain that play a role in relaxation, reduced heart rate/blood pressure and feeling happier.

"Sleep is really something that I struggle with and when they told me it can help me and promote sleep, I tried it out," Cooks said. "Sleep obviously helps with performance, helps with recovery. It's been a game changer and I've been fortunate enough to know that it affects me so I started to give it to my teammates and players in my agency."

JETS' Q FACTOR

Quinnen and Quincy Williams had big dreams of playing in the NFL when they were youngsters growing up in Alabama.

They already accomplished that lofty goal, but now they're teammates for the first time since high school after the New York Jets claimed Quincy off waivers last week from Jacksonville.

"It was dope, man," Quinnen Williams said. "I really found out when I was walking on the field for practice that day. It's super exciting for my family, my brothers, my sister. ... I know my mom would be super proud."

Williams' mother Marquischa died in 2010 from breast cancer, and Quinnen wears a locket with a picture of his mother every day in her memory. There's no doubt she would get a kick out of seeing her two sons playing on the same NFL defense. If they play in the same game, they'll join Larry and Robert Woods (1975-76) as the only Jets siblings to do so.

"It's amazing to have a great guy like him here," Quinnen said of Quincy. "He can help the team with his explosiveness, his speed, his knowledge and his football IQ."

The 25-year-old Quincy is 16 months older than Quinnen, but the two started their pro careers at the same time in 2019. Quinnen was a first-round pick of the Jets—No. 3 overall—out of Alabama, while Quincy was a third-rounder by Jacksonville out of Murray State.

Quincy played in 18 games with the Jaguars at linebacker, including eight starts as a rookie. He dealt with injuries last season and was among Jacksonville's final cuts this summer.

"It wasn't one of those things where he was like, 'Yay, I'm excited to be on your team,'" Quinnen said of Quincy's reaction to joining him on the Jets. "It was one of those like, 'Yo, that was the last time I'm getting cut. I've got to play my (best) every single week, every single day to let people know that I'm a good football player and not just Quinnen Williams' brother.'"

Quinnen told his brother he respected that approach, and they now have a common goal—bonded by blood and football brotherhood.

"I told him when you come into this building, bro, I don't care if you're my brother or not—we want to win," the defensive tackle said. "I want to win. ... And I know you're going to hold me accountable, and I'm going to hold you accountable because that's what the whole team expects from both of us." ***(AP)***

The CNMI's Janelle Pangilinan gets ready near the net, while partner Andrew Galvez, left, stays back and team captain Nate Guerrero, right, looks on during their game against Samoa last Monday in the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa. SAMOA PACIFIC GAMES PHOTO

NMBA to hold Badminton Open 2021

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Marianas Badminton Association will hold a singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competition starting this weekend at the NMBA Gymnasium inside the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Dubbed Badminton Open 2021, the tournament is sponsored by TakeCare Insurance Company Inc. and registration is free.

Tournament director and NMBA board member Janelle Pangilinan said the association deemed it's about time they introduced an individual and doubles competition after staging a couple of team events earlier in the year.

"We decided to start out with team tournament for two main reasons. One of them is because we have a lot of new players so it gives them a chance to play with the experience players and create partnerships that way. The other reason is because we wanted the badminton community at NMBA to just come together to bond and enjoy some friendly competition," she said.

The nature of singles tournaments is more about competition, so Pangilinan said it just made sense to start with a more inclusive and friendlier team format to start the year.

"As opposed to an individual tournament where your mindset is really more on the competitive side of the game. Hence why we made the picks at random for the team tournaments for the excitement. So now with our the TakeCare tournament that is coming up, it will be an individual tournament where singles, doubles, and mixed doubles categories will be played," she said.

The format for the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 will now give players a chance to see where they are at, skill-wise, with the people in their respective class and rank up as well, according to Pangelinan.

"Don't let the fear of not being good in badminton prevent you from playing the game, everyone has to start somewhere. The most important thing is to have fun," she added.

NMBA's TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 will be held on Sept. 17, 18, 24, and 25. For more information, call Pangilinan at 783-2813.

NBA goes ahead with plan to test unvaccinated players often

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

For NBA players, the scenario this season is simple: Get vaccinated or get tested, and often.

The league told its teams on Tuesday that it is going ahead with a plan where those who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus will not need to submit to regular testing. Those who are unvaccinated, however, will undergo rigorous testing—one test on practice or travel days, and at least one test on game days.

Teams were given parameters of the plan earlier this month and the league, in a memo Tuesday obtained by The Associated Press, revealed more details to its clubs about how the testing will work. Many of the tests given this season will be administered through Cue Health, which provides rapid molecular tests and processes them through mobile technology in about 20 minutes.

Tests that will clear an unvaccinated player to be in a game will still be of the PCR variety, the league said.

There will be scenarios where vaccinated players must test, such as when showing potential symptoms of COVID-19. It also remains possible that vaccinated players may have to test weekly during training camp, though talks on that issue are continuing.

The National Basketball Players Association has not mandated to players that they be vaccinated, despite the NBA's hope that would be the case. All others who will be in the vicinity of players during games this season—coaches, team staff, referees, courtside stat-crew workers and more—will be vaccinated.

The NBA said that about 85% of the league's players were vaccinated by the end of last season. Teams begin training camps on Sept. 28.

Other provisions for unvaccinated players will include that they wear masks at team facilities and during travel. Teams were told they will have to arrange seating in almost all situations—travel, meals, meetings, even locker-room setups—to ensure that players who are not fully vaccinated are not seated directly next to another player.

There will be exceptions considered for those unable to get the vaccine for religious or medical reasons, the NBA said.

Around the U.S., COVID-19 deaths and cases have climbed back to levels not seen since last winter. The U.S. is currently averaging over 1,800 deaths and 170,000 new cases per day, the highest levels respectively since early March and late January.

A syringe is prepared with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic at the Reading Area Community College in Reading, Pa., Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021. AP

President Joe Biden last week ordered all employers with more than 100 workers to require vaccinations or weekly tests.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	90	55	.621	_
New York	81	64	.559	9
Toronto	81	64	.559	9
Boston	82	65	.558	9
Baltimore	46	98	.319	43½
Central Division				
Chicago	83	61	.576	_
Cleveland	70	73	.490	12½
Detroit	69	76	.476	14½
Kansas City	66	78	.458	17
Minnesota	64	82	.438	20
West Division				
Houston	84	60	.583	_
Seattle	78	67	.538	6½
Oakland	77	67	.535	7
Los Angeles	70	74	.486	14
Texas	54	90	.375	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	76	67	.531	_
Philadelphia	72	72	.500	4½
New York	72	74	.493	5½
Miami	61	84	.421	16
Washington	60	85	.414	17
Central Division				
Milwaukee	89	56	.614	_
St. Louis	75	69	.521	13½
Cincinnati	75	70	.517	14
Chicago	66	79	.455	23
Pittsburgh	53	91	.368	35½
West Division				
z-San Francisco	95	50	.655	_
Los Angeles	93	53	.637	2½
San Diego	74	70	.514	20½
Colorado	67	78	.462	28
Arizona	47	98	.324	48

z-clinched playoff berth

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STRONG

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kod teamed up in the Tataga's rout of the Knights with the former catching fire in their season debut after delivering four goals. Ngewakl and Bumakod contributed three apiece, while Prince Espiritu chipped in one.

Bumakod started things off for Tanapag with his goal in the fourth minute, while Camacho made it two in a row for the Tataga a minute later. Tanapag went on to nail five more goals in the first half to set up the blowout win, while Mt. Carmel could only counter with three goals in the second half—courtesy of Arstin Tagabuel's hat-trick.

In the second game, Hopwood went all out in the second half to ease past SIS.

Paul Lizama recorded two of his three goals in the second half for Hopwood, while Izeah Jolo also had a pair in the final half of the one-sided match. Mark Costales had twins goals, too for Hopwood and logged them in the first half, which ended with the Hilitai ahead at 3-0.

Hopwood pulled away in the second half as Jolo and Lizama found their target and three of their teammates also scored. Tyler Omelau, Jimenez Sernante, and Emerson Brillo contributed one goal each for Hopwood's strong start.

Hopwood, Tanapag, Mt. Carmel, and SIS are in Group A of the middle school competition, while Group B has Dandan Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan, Saipan Community School, and Chacha Oceanview.

Group B teams will have their season-debut matches today with Dandan taking on Chacha at 4pm and FMS battling SCS in the second game at 5:10pm. Squads will play a round-robin regular season and the Top 2 teams in each division will advance to the playoff round. Group A top finisher will take on Group B second placer for the first finals berth, while the last slot to the championship game will be contested by the No. 1 team in Group B and No. 2 squad in Group A. Semis matches are schedule for Oct. 5, while the one game finals is slated for Oct. 8.

Meanwhile, the elementary division games of the ISL started yesterday with six teams playing their opening games. The division has four groups with SIS, Oleai, San Vicente 1, and Koblerville 2 in Group A. Group B has SCS, Gregorio T. Camacho, Koblerville 2, and Garapan 2, while Group C is made up of San Vicente 2, William S. Reyes 1, Mt. Carmel, and Garapan 1. WSR 2, Kagman, Grace Christian Academy, and Seventh Day Adventist are in Group D.

SPORTS

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course is also OSEP's regional master educator in Guam and has the support this week of Jubilee Kuartei, regional coordinator for OSEP based in Palau, and Guam master educators Tara Tydingco and Melanie Torre.

"The broader learning outcomes will include a better understanding of good governance and structures to ensure proper compliance as well as the synergies between local government, national federations and the Games Organizing Committee," Miranda explained.

Miranda said the module on Facility and Event Management will assist all national federations and clubs in particular the nine national federations responsible for competition delivery in the Pacific Mini Games in June next year.

"This will include a list of required objectives for hosting a sports event and the development of competition schedules that are inclusive of COVID-19 countermeasures.

"The Marketing and Public Relations module explores strategies for fundraising and sponsorship to ensure sports federations work towards becoming self-sufficient," Miranda explained.

The three-day training, coordinated by NMSA's executive director Carline Sablan, will be held from Sept. 16 to 18 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMSA is one of seven associate members of ONOC. Its president is Jerry Tan and its secretary general is Valerie Hofschneider. The NMI participates in the Micronesian Games, the Pacific Games, and the Mini Pacific Games at regional level. ***(PR)***

GIRLS

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2 outlasted MCS 2, 13-25, 25-22, 15-9, while MCS 3 needed three sets to upend MHS 3 in a cliffhanger, 25-23, 11-25, 16-14.

Public School System athletic program director Nick Gross said he's just relieved that indoor 6x6 high school volleyball is back after the season was cancelled the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing reconstruction from Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Volleyball is alive and kicking! After nearly two years of wait, indoor [volleyball] is back! It was a homecoming of sorts without all the pomp, but the excitement was electric and sweltering!" he said.

Gross admitted that conditions were not ideal as MHS' air-conditioning system is still down. He also thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association for helping to hold the league.

"We're very hopeful that the gym air-conditioning system will be restored by the second semester, but nobody playing seemed to care. Great action all around and so very happy to have the support of NMIVA! Thanks to everyone for supporting athletic programs!" he added.

Aside from the exciting matches, the start of the girls high school volleyball season was also heightened by the enthusiastic support of the participating school teams' respective student body that filled the MHS Gym.

Day 2 of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 resumes today and will have SSHS 1 taking on GCA 2 and MCS 2 facing SIS 2 at 4:30pm. The 5:30pm matches will then have GCA 1 squaring off against SSHS 2 and MHS 2 duking it out with MCS 1. The 6:15pm playdate will then feature KHS against SIS 1 and MHS 1 against sister team MHS 3.

NMBA to hold Badminton Open 2021

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rays beat Blue Jays, becoming 1st AL team to reach 90 wins

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Sports workshop to strengthen national federations

The Northern Marianas Sports Association will host a three-day workshop, beginning today for national sporting federations in support of preparations for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games next year.

A three-member team is on island to deliver the "Management in Sporting Organizations" course under the Oceania Sports Education Programme managed by the Oceania National Olympic Committees.

MISO is a competency-based assessment course that includes modules on Governance, Facility and Event Management, Planning for Development, Marketing and Public Relations and Financial Management.

OSEP is an innovative Pacific-led sport education program that has transformed and complemented capacity and capability development within the sports sector in the Pacific region.

NMSA president Jerry Tan said that this training was in NMSA's pipeline last year, however, COVID-19 created a few setbacks.

"We are grateful to the support we've received from the Oceania National Olympic Committees and the Guam National Olympic Committee and in particular ONOC secretary-general Rick Blas for the presence on Saipan this week of Joey Miranda III, board member and sport development officer for GNOC; Meli Cavu, officer-in-charge and chief administration officer for ONOC; and Inoke Bainimarama, chief communications officer for ONOC.

Miranda who is the lead facilitator for the three-day

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Miranda

Strong start for Tanapag, Hopwood

A Tanapag Middle School player dribbles during their game against Mt. Carmel School in the opening of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School and Tanapag Middle School had rousing debuts in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 after dominating their respective opponents last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Hopwood played in the curtain-raiser and took no sweet time in hammering Saipan International School, 10-0. In the second game, Tanapag duplicated Hopwood's lopsided win after pouncing on Mt. Carmel School, 11-3.

Jayven Camacho, Nolan Ngewakl, and Danilo Buma-

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A Hopwood Middle School player, right, tries to navigate his way out of a Saipan International School defender during their game in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Girls HS indoor volleyball kicks off

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Girls high school volleyball returned with a bang last Tuesday with a six-match schedule at the sweltering hot Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Results of Day 1 of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season saw Saipan International School 1 get the better of Marianas High School 2, 25-19, 25-19, and Grace Christian Academy 1 top Mt. Carmel School 1, 25-12, 25-11, in the 4:30pm scheduled games.

The 5:30pm games then saw Kagman High School rally from one set down to upend Saipan Southern High School 1, 25-27, 25-9, 15-6, and MHS 1 wipe the floor clean of SIS 2, 25-4, 25-12.

GCA 2 and MCS 3 also won their initial games in the 6:15pm matches. GCA

See GIRLS on Page 19

Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School 1 players in action during their NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 game last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. MARK RABAGO